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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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# Fighting for his future

Servicemembers with late-career health issues can face loss of pension

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAIERSLAUTERN, Germany — In the end, getting a pension came down to days, not years.

When Jerred Mitchell, a noncommissioned officer at Ramstein Air Base, began getting sick more than two years ago, he started banking his annual leave.

Had he not done that, the Air Force master sergeant would be facing a medical retirement without a pension, less than three months shy of his 20-year mark.

"If I didn't save my leave for the last 2½ years, I'd be in a different situation," Mitchell said.

**SEE PENSION ON PAGE 4**

**'You don't know if you're going to get sick ... and get pushed out.'**

**Jerred Mitchell**



**Jerred Mitchell**, an Air Force master sergeant assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, almost lost his pension due to being medically retired from the Air Force. He managed to just make it past 20 years after going through two medical evaluation boards and appealing to the secretary of the Air Force to be returned to duty, an appeal that he lost.

MICHAEL B. KELLER/*Stars and Stripes*

**Top:** Mitchell in 2014, before he gained weight from the side effects of drugs he was taking.

Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

## Japan Coast Guard faults both ships in Fitzgerald collision

By TYLER HLVAC  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

**YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan** — The Japan Coast Guard has recommended negligent homicide charges for the USS Fitzgerald's officer of the deck and the ACX Crystal's second officer after a deadly collision last year.

■ Navy funding study on sleep deprivation's effects upon decision-making in group setting

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The guidance, announced Thursday, comes after the conclusion of an investigation that determined both officers were responsible for the June 17 incident that killed seven Fitzgerald sailors after the destroyer crashed into the cargo ship about 60 miles southwest of Yokosuka.

Charges of "Causing Death and Injury through Negligence in the

Pursuit of Social Activities and Endangering Traffic through Negligence in the Pursuit of Social Activities" were recommended because both officers were responsible for steering their ships at the time of the collision, Japan Coast Guard spokesman Yoshihito Nakamura told Stars and Stripes.

He said the coast guard would

not identify the ACX Crystal's second officer out of fairness, because the Navy has refused to name the Fitzgerald officer.

Nakamura said the Fitzgerald crew is at fault because the Crystal was traveling on its right side in accordance with Preventing Collisions at Sea regulations. However, the ACX

**SEE CHARGES ON PAGE 3**

## EUROPE

# Exercise preps USAF for worst-case scenarios

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Against a backdrop of rolling hills and farmer's fields in this bucolic corner of southwest Germany, the U.S. Air Force is practicing for worst-case scenarios.

The base on Thursday night wrapped up a two-week exercise during which flying ramped up day and night. Loud sirens signaled for airmen to take cover under desks, among other training drills.

It was the largest exercise staged at Spangdahlem in more than 18 months, but base officials said it wasn't in response to any emerging or specific threat.

Rather, it's one of many ways the Air Force trains to be ready for a gamut of possible scenarios, from defending the base from attack to quickly launching aircraft to help a NATO ally in distress, officials said.

"Whether we're here in Korea or in Florida, we're always making sure we can defend the base from any adversary, any sort of aggression, and also support our allies," said Tech. Sgt. Kyle Beck, a member of the 52nd Fighter Wing inspector general's office exercise inspection team.

The exercise featured a lot of air power, combining F-16 fighter jets from two squadrons — Spangdahlem's 480th Fighter Squadron and those of the visiting 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. The 112th is an Ohio Air National Guard unit deployed to Europe from Toledo.

The unit brought with it more than 300 airmen and 12 F-16

Fighting Falcons, wrapping up a two-month deployment to Estonia with a few additional weeks of training at Spangdahlem, said Lt. Col. Greg Barasch, the unit's commander.

"This kind of brings it all together for us. We get to work with a lot of regional partners, NATO allies" in Estonia, Barasch said. "And then we get to come here and work with a U.S. unit and actually tie together some of our mission sets to maintain that readiness."

While in Estonia, the Ohio Air National Guard trained at Amari Air Base, flying sorties with partners in the region. The deployment was part of a theater security package under Operation Atlantic Resolve to act as a deterrent and reassure NATO allies nervous about Russian intentions.

The Ohio pilots, about 60 percent of whom are part-time airmen, were back in the air almost immediately when they arrived in Germany, figuring out quickly how to train with the Spangdahlem fliers, Barasch said.

Maintainers from both squadrons supported the busy flying schedule, gaining important lessons in the process, they said.

During the second week of the exercise, Capt. Jessica Watts, 480th Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in-charge, said, "We are generating more than half the normal sorties that we would produce in a month."

"By putting so much stress on the organization to see how well we perform, as leaders it allows us to see, 'Hey, I have an issue here,'" she said. "You can't fix what you don't know is broken."

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesktoon



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

**Ohio National Guard F-16 fighter jets from the 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, deployed to Europe from Toledo, prepare for training last Tuesday at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.**



**Left:** F-16 pilots with the 480th Fighter Squadron suit up before flying during the exercise. **Right:** Pilots from both units listen to a preflight briefing.

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## MILITARY

# Navy studies lack of sleep's effects on decision-making

By WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy is funding research into how sleep deprivation affects decision-making in a group setting, such as among a ship's bridge crew.

The Office of Naval Research Global is sponsoring groundbreaking research by professor Sean Drummond with the Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences in Australia.

Little research exists on how and to what extent lack of sleep affects a group while its members are collectively analyzing data and making decisions, the Navy said Thursday in a statement. The effects of sleep deprivation on individual performance have been extensively documented.

"From high op-tempo Navy special warfare missions to Sailors on extended watch on ships, to long-duration flights or Marines in theater, the issue of sleep loss is critical to the performance and well-being of our warfighters," Capt. Kevin Quadrer, ONR Global commander, said in the statement. "Professor

Drummond's research will play a key role in understanding and enhancing their endurance and combat effectiveness."

The Navy has more deeply scrutinized the ill effects of sleep deprivation in the wake of two separate deadly collisions by the guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain last summer in which 17 sailors died.

A Navy comprehensive review issued in October assigned some of the blame for the collisions to crew fatigue due to poor sleep patterns.

Lack of sleep has been found to profoundly affect work performance, which can decline as much as 30 percent after the first sleep-deprived night and up to 60 percent after the second consecutive such night, the Navy review said.

Participants in Drummond's study will be monitored during waking hours by wearing eye-tracking devices that measure attention as they perform tasks, such as focusing their gaze on moving images on a computer screen while at the same time ignoring distractions, the Navy

said.

Participants will also wear EEG, or electroencephalogram, headsets that measure brain activity from the cerebral cortex, the control center of memory, attention and perception, the Navy said.

"Professor Drummond's team is taking a systematic approach to studying fatigue and circadian rhythm disruption, and how it impacts decision-making in complex tasks," Dr. Jason Wong, ONR Global's science director, said in the statement. "This research will provide insight that can be applied by our Sailors and Marines, who often have to work long hours in less-than-optimal sleep environments, and we expect it will improve their cognitive and physical health."

The participants will be roused without proper sleep toward the end of the study regimen and then perform group exercises, during which their decision-making ability and processes are monitored. They are tasked with reaching consensus after reviewing various discrete bits of information and then outlining the reasoning process supporting



Courtesy of Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences

**The effects of sleep deprivation on decision-making in a group setting are being studied in a research project funded by the Navy.**

their decisions.

"Such experiments will allow us to compare decision-making abilities after a well-rested state and after sleep disruption and circadian misalignment," Drummond said in the Navy statement. "This is important because, during military engagements, you must make fast decisions — deploying resources, reacting to the enemy — at all hours of the day, while processing information from many sources."

Drummond worked as a staff

psychologist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System from 2005 to 2014 and has been at the Monash School of Psychological Sciences as a professor of clinical neuroscience since December 2014, according to his faculty biography.

His clinical research has focused on the treatment of insomnia, and other areas of research have examined the interaction of sleep, sleep disruption and psychiatric symptoms.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattWilson

## Charges: Officer involved in Fitzgerald crash may avoid civilian charges

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Crystal is also to blame because it failed to take any action to avoid the incident, he added.

U.S. Forces Japan told Stars and Stripes in a statement Thursday that it is aware of Japan's intent to pursue legal action.

"The sailors involved in the collision were performing their official duties at the time," the statement said. "Pursuant to the Status of Forces Agreement between the U.S. and Japan, the U.S. has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction for offenses arising out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duties."

Japanese media are speculating that

prosecutors will drop the case against the Fitzgerald sailor because of that caveat.

A Navy report released last year said the Fitzgerald's officer of the deck "exhibited poor seamanship by failing to maneuver as required, failing to sound the danger signal and failing to attempt to contact [the ACX Crystal] on Bridge to Bridge radio."

The unnamed sailor also "did not call the commanding officer as appropriate and prescribed by Navy procedures to allow him to exercise more senior oversight and judgment of the situation," the report said.

The officer of the deck and bridge team also "failed to comply with the International Rules of the Nautical Road," the report said, adding that the destroyer was travel-

ing at an unsafe speed and failed to maneuver early, notify other ships of danger and take proper actions.

The Navy announced in January that Cmdr. Bryce Benson — who helmed the Fitzgerald during the incident and was injured in the crash — had been charged with dereliction of duty, hazarding a vessel and negligent homicide. Two unnamed lieutenants and one lieutenant junior grade from the ship face similar charges.

Article 32 hearings for sailors involved in both the Fitzgerald incident and a later collision that killed 10 USS John S. McCain sailors near Singapore were scheduled to begin earlier this month. However,

those have been postponed to an unspecified date after defense attorneys asked for more time.

Cmdr. Alfredo Sanchez, former commander of the McCain, faces the same charges as Benson. Both leaders were relieved of their duties last year.

A chief petty officer from the McCain is facing one charge of dereliction of duty. The executive officers of both ships and several sailors from the Fitzgerald were also relieved of their duties due to "poor seamanship and flawed teamwork," a Navy statement said.

hlavac.tyler@stripes.com  
kusumoto.hana@stripes.com

## Navy releases names of pilots killed in Florida Super Hornet crash

By KAT BOUZA

*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy has identified the two pilots killed when their F/A-18F Super Hornet crashed into the sea near Key West, Fla., on Wednesday afternoon.

Lt. Cmdr. James Brice Johnson and Lt. Caleb Nathaniel King — both assigned to the "Blacklions" of Strike Fighter Squadron 213 at Naval Air Station Oceana — died after the aircraft went down on final approach to Naval Air Station Key West about 4:30 p.m. The squadron was conducting training in the area at the time of the crash.

"The entire Blacklion Family

is grieving the loss of two great Americans," Cmdr. Kevin Robb, the unit's commander, said in a Navy statement. "Lt. Cmdr. Johnson and Lt. King were phenomenal young men, exceptional naval aviators, and were living models of what honor, courage and commitment really mean."

Johnson was piloting the Super Hornet at the time of the incident, while King was serving as weapons systems operator, the Navy said. Both men had ejected from the aircraft.

The Super Hornet appeared to suffer from a mechanical failure, witnesses said.

"It looked like it was going to land on the runway, and then

the whole plane went sideways," local resident Barbie Wilson told The Associated Press. "And then I saw fire, and it dropped out of the sky."

The wreckage remains in the water as the Navy's Mishap Investigation Board prepares to launch a probe into the cause of the crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and squadron mates of these two aviators," Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic, said in a statement. "A full investigation will be conducted to discover the cause of this mishap."

bouza.kat@stripes.com



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Lt. Cmdr. James Brice Johnson, left, and Lt. Caleb Nathaniel King were killed when their F/A-18F Super Hornet crashed Wednesday.**

# MILITARY



Photos courtesy of Jered Mitchell

**Above:** Master Sgt. Jered Mitchell, then with the 35th Communications Squadron at Misawa Air Base, Japan, stands next to one of the scary clowns at the squadron's Haunted Dungeon in 2007. **Right:** Mitchell is pictured during a deployment to Iraq in 2008



## Pension: Ramstein NCO's symptoms baffled doctors

### FROM FRONT PAGE

On Feb. 22, a board acting on behalf of the secretary of the Air Force denied his appeal to return to duty, directing that he be medically retired due to a rare disorder that can cause recurring blood clots.

Mitchell stood to lose his pension, an annual lifetime retirement benefit that military personnel qualify for after serving 20 years on active duty. For Mitchell, that comes to \$19,459 a year after taxes, he said.

Mitchell's case highlights the vulnerability of servicemembers struggling with health issues in the twilight of their careers.

As servicemembers age and years of service take a heavy toll on their bodies, Pentagon regulations offer no protection or sanctuary from separation on medical grounds, regardless of how near to retirement they might be. That means a pension rewarding a long, respectable career can vanish if a servicemember becomes unexpectedly ill or develops a physically debilitating condition before reaching 20 years.

Mitchell fretted for months while the Air Force weighed his future. In September, he filed an appeal to the secretary of the Air Force asking that he be returned to duty after two Air Force physical evaluation boards ruled last year that he should be medically retired.

He was told he might hear back from the secretary's office within one to four months. It took more than six months.

Mitchell finally learned last month that his appeal was denied. But after a few more anxious days, he found out he'll get past the 20-year mark.

Months of fighting for his pension and waiting for answers paid off; the Air Force's slow pace of administrative action worked to Mitchell's advantage.

The days of leave Mitchell saved, plus extra time granted to him for outprocessing and house hunting by his command put him over the hump.

After taking into account Mitchell's leave and other time he's due, the Air Force Personnel Center approved his medical retirement for Aug. 31, three months past his 20-year mark of May 13.

### A sliver of compassion

Though uncommon, getting discharged between 19 and 20 years on medical grounds does happen.

During the past five years, 69 active-

duty airmen and 34 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members were medically discharged with 19 years of service, officials said.

Most received a medical retirement, while a few were discharged with severance pay only. In both sets of circumstances, the airmen would not receive a separate military pension.

Military defense attorney David Sheldon, of Washington, has worked a few similar cases, he said, including a current one representing an airman with 18½ years of service. The Air Force is trying to separate him for disability at 20 percent despite the airman having support from his command for retention, Sheldon said.

Sheldon expects cases like this to rise, given the Pentagon's new policy announced last month intended to force out most servicemembers who are unable to deploy within 12 months.

Given the tougher retention standards, Mitchell knew his chances of a favorable decision were slim. But he was hoping for a silver compass from the Strategic Air Force folks. He had support from his commander to stay in and, realistically, he had too little time of obligated service remaining to deploy.

Mitchell was willing to hang up his uniform this spring. He told the Air Force, "I just want to stay in till my 20-year mark and then I'll retire," and they said, "No."

### Sanctuary for some

U.S. Code 1176 protects servicemembers nearing 20 years of service — and retirement eligibility — from being discharged or denied re-enlistment without just cause.

"Generally, what it addresses, once you're over 18 years, local commanders" can't issue an administrative discharge for lower-level misconduct, said Eric Mayer, an attorney in Kansas City, Kan., who specializes in military law. "You can still do a knucklehead thing and get kicked out. It just has to go to a much higher level of approval."

But the federal sanctuary law doesn't extend to medical cases, officials said.

Servicemembers "pending an approved or mandatory retirement are presumed fit for duty and must meet a higher standard to be found unfit for continued service," said Michael Dickerson, Air Force Per-

sonnel Center spokesman. "However, so-called sanctuary provisions do not apply for servicemembers with 18 to 20 years of service if found unfit for continued service due to medical disability."

The nuance in the law isn't widely understood, Mitchell discovered. When he reached out to fellow airmen and veterans for advice, he kept hearing: "Oh, you're good, you're in sanctuary. Nope, you don't have to worry about nothing."

### Finally, a diagnosis

Mitchell always intended to stay in the Air Force beyond 20 years.

Now 40, Mitchell's career has stretched past 23 years, including his Reserve and Guard duty. He joined the Army when he was 17 and spent three years as a field artilleryman. Then he did brief stints in the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Force National Guard and Air Force Reserves. He enlisted in the Air Force in 2001, working in project and computer systems planning and implementation until 2009, when his career field merged into cable and antenna systems craftsman. Along the way, he deployed four times, including twice to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mitchell's career was humming along until late 2016, when his left leg began to swell. Soon afterward, tests revealed deep vein thrombosis. The blood clots in his leg moved to his lungs, while the clots in his leg kept worsening, even after Mitchell went on blood thinners.

Doctors were baffled.

By January 2017, Mitchell finally received a diagnosis: antiphospholipid syndrome, a rare autoimmune system disorder that causes an increased risk of blood clots. There's currently no cure.

Around the same time, Mitchell began experiencing back pain. For years, he had minor aches in his back and legs, which intensified after his blood disorder developed.

"I can't sit or stand too long," he said. "I can't stand in formation anymore."

The blood clots in Mitchell's lungs automatically triggered a medical board review, he said.

The deployment availability working group at Ramstein was first to review his medical condition, recommending that he returned to duty, Mitchell said.

But the Air Force Personnel Center determines whether a member should be returned to duty — sometimes with an assignment limitation code — or be put through a full medical evaluation board review, according to the Air Force. The AFPC opted for the board review in Mitchell's case.

That triggered an informal physical evaluation board and, later, a formal physical evaluation board review at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

For his lower back pain and blood disorder, the boards assigned him a disability rating of 40 percent and recommended permanent retirement.

Mitchell appealed the ruling to the Secretary of the Air Force in mid-September.

Mitchell's medical records describe his duty and mobility restrictions. He can't run and he can't lift more than 40 pounds. His health care provider recommended he be allowed to work half-days as the mission allows and wear comfortable shoes.

The disorder has taxed Mitchell's body. This past year, he was up to two dozen medications a day to control his symptoms, and he has gained 60 pounds in two years from the drugs' side effects.

Mitchell also had letters of support from airmen and civilians with whom he's worked, including his current commander, Lt. Col. Steven Brummitt.

In his letter to the board, Brummitt said Mitchell was one of his most productive communication planners, someone he leaned on for his expertise, leadership and problem solving.

"Bottom line: MSgt Mitchell is adding value to my organization despite his medical condition," Brummitt wrote. "He is in the perfect 'desk' job to support his physical limitations. . . ."

### Incompatible'

The physical evaluation board findings zeroed in on Mitchell's autoimmune disorder, stating the condition posed "obvious medical risk" to Mitchell's health and imposed "unreasonable requirements" on the military "to maintain or protect" him.

His back pain, meanwhile, rendered him unable to deploy, meet physical fitness requirements and perform common military tasks, the boards' members ruled.

**SEE PENSION ON PAGE 5**



## MILITARY

# Wiesbaden club for women holds annual bazaar

By DAN STOUTAMIRE

*Stars and Stripes*

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Wiesbaden German-American Women's Club hosted its 69th annual spring charity bazaar on Saturday at Wiesbaden's Kurhaus colonnade — an iconic structure dating back to the city's heyday as a holiday destination for Europe's elite.

The bazaar is the club's most important charity event of the year, said American club President Cindee Huwe, whose husband works in the area for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**'This is absolutely wunderbar.'**

Col. Todd Fish  
Commander, U.S.  
Army Garrison  
Wiesbaden

Despite frigid weather, a crowd waited for the doors to open at 10 a.m.

Huwe said the bazaar's cafeteria, where club members were selling pastries, breads and coffee, was the biggest earner, but there was also a champagne bar, a raffle and several flea market stalls selling books, souvenirs, glassware and other items.

Col. Todd Fish, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, said he was impressed with the work of the women's club, which he said was an important part of bringing the garrison and the local community together.

"This is absolutely wunderbar," Fish told volunteers and visitors just before the event opened. "What a fantastic organization, a great club, and all the work that you do, that you put back into the community, I'm speechless. It helps both our communities grow."

Gathering the items for sale was a monthlong process, Huwe said. The group has worked closely with the local Salvation Army charity since January to collect the clothing, books and other goods.

stoutamire.dan@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY DAN STOUTAMIRE/Stars and Stripes

Visitors to the 69th annual Wiesbaden German-American Women's Club spring charity bazaar shop for clothes at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden on Saturday.



People browse through books on sale at the event, which has been held every spring since the 1940s to raise money for local charities.

# Third-grader with knife at Va. school on Army installation detained; no injuries

By JENNIFER SVAN  
AND CLAUDIA GRISALES  
*Stars and Stripes*

A third-grade student brought a pocketknife to Fort Belvoir Elementary School in Virginia on Thursday and may have threatened other students with it, according to parents critical of the school's response and to base officials.

No injuries were reported, but the student "allegedly indicated an intent to use the pocketknife, possibly to harm self and others," according to a statement from the Fort Belvoir garrison commander posted on its Facebook site Thursday night.

Children of military personnel attend the school on Fort Belvoir but it is not part of the Department of Defense Education Activity, the U.S. military's school system.

The incident prompted concern from some parents, who criticized the school for failing to notify them sooner and not being forthcoming about the seriousness of the episode.

According to posts on the Face-

book page, a parent shared an alert from school officials about 3:45 p.m. Thursday. Police were called to the school shortly before 1 p.m., according to a law enforcement spokeswoman.

"This afternoon, one of our students took out a pocketknife and showed it to classmates," read the shared message from Fort Belvoir Elementary School. "Staff members removed it from the student, and the appropriate authorities were contacted. Our students were not in danger, but we wanted to make you aware of this incident."

Parents identifying themselves as parents of children at the school said on Facebook that they were alarmed to hear details from their kids when they picked them up that didn't match what the school initially reported.

"This was definitely a scary moment, and having to read about it on [Facebook] as well as children telling us details is unacceptable," one commenter wrote.

The garrison statement said the parental notification came from Fairfax County Public Schools.

The Fort Belvoir Police Depart-

ment, Fairfax County Police Department and emergency services responded to the incident, according to the garrison statement. Upon arrival, the student was located and the knife was confiscated and secured, the statement said. The student was removed from the premises.

The Fairfax police said Friday that they responded to the school at 12:57 p.m. after a report of a child with a knife. There were no reports of injuries.

Fairfax County referred additional questions to the Fort Belvoir Police Department, which is the lead police agency on the case. A spokeswoman for Fort Belvoir police referred all comments to the school district, saying they couldn't share details because it was a school matter. A call requesting comment from the Fairfax Public School System wasn't immediately returned.

The incident remains under investigation.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripeskewtown  
grisales.claudia@stripes.com  
Twitter: @cgrisales

# Location of future Desert Storm War Memorial unclear

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The location of the future Desert Storm War Memorial remains unclear after one of the commissions tasked with choosing the site voted against organizers' top choice Thursday.

The U.S. Commission on Fine Arts voted 5-1 to build the memorial at a waterfront location on the historic Belvedere, a portion of land at the western end of Constitution Avenue in northwest Washington. It noted the site's visual connection to Arlington National Cemetery, which is across the Potomac River.

"That was not the one we were hoping for," said Scott Stump, president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association.

Stump and other memorial organizers met with the Commission on Fine Arts three times in the past year to present their case for a memorial location on the National Mall near 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue.

President Donald Trump signed a resolution in March 2017 approving a Desert Storm and Desert Shield memorial on federal land in Washington. The association is responsible for all aspects of the memorial, including fundraising, design and construction. The memorial is expected to be completed by 2021 and to cost about \$25 million.

At a hearing in October, historians, lawmakers and retired four-star Army Gen. Ronald Griffith pleaded with commissioners, arguing the new memorial deserved a close connection to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall.

"The leaders who served in Desert Storm, we were all low-ranking to mid-grade officers during the Vietnam War, and we drew some lessons," Griffith said in October. "I would love to be able to have that monument somewhere that I could walk from where we left our buddies in Vietnam to the memorial that says, 'Here is where we ended up. This is where we left it.'"

Though the Commission on Fine Arts voted against that idea Thursday, the National Capital Planning Commission also has a say. Both commissions must approve of the memorial's location and design.

The National Capital Planning Commission is expected to take up the issue April 5 at its next meeting. In December, the NCPC said the waterfront site — selected by the Commission on Fine Arts — is challenging to access and "has limited opportunity for contemplative space." However, like

**'It's a little bit frustrating. However, I'm confident that the process will work itself through and that it's going to come out in our favor.'**

Scott Stump  
president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

the Commission on Fine Arts, the NCPC highlighted its connection to Arlington National Cemetery.

Thomas Luebke, secretary of the Commission on Fine Arts, said if the commissions disagree about the site, "it will have to be worked out" with memorial organizers and stakeholders.

Stump said Thursday that he and other organizers were considering other options, which include consulting with the National Park Service.

Stump has been involved in the effort to build the National Desert Storm Memorial for eight years, and narrowing down potential sites has taken more than two years. The group of organizers started with 100 locations.

"It's not a done deal at this point," Stump said. "There's a lot of people wanting to know what's happening. It's a little bit frustrating. However, I'm confident that the process will work itself through and that it's going to come out in our favor."

Organizers were at least pleased, that the commission didn't vote for their least favorite option — a site at Walt Whitman Park, Stump said.

A final design for the memorial is also uncertain.

Arguing against the waterfront site selected by the Commission on Fine Arts, Stump said there would be a symbolic disconnect between the view of the Potomac River and what troops experienced in the desert of Saudi Arabia.

Organizers want the memorial to include elements that would remind visitors of the Kuwaiti desert. A proposed design includes a curved limestone wall enveloping an inner memorial space.

The National Park Service is asking for public input on what the memorial should look like. Through April 13, anyone can offer their opinions on the design by going to parkplanning.nps.gov. A public meeting to discuss the design is set for March 27.

wenting.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

## MILITARY

# Graveside salute offered to 'guardian angel'

## Last living Medal of Honor recipient from Iwo Jima honors Marine who covered him

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

HONOLULU — Seventy-three years ago on the island of Iwo Jima, Hershel "Woody" Williams randomly chose several fellow Marines to give him rifle cover as he made a one-man charge with his flamethrower against a network of Japanese pillboxes.

He spent four hours unleashing flames into the pillboxes that had stymied advance for days, racing back to the Marine Corps lines to refuel the flamethrower and then running again into battle — all while covered by only four riflemen.

Williams was ultimately awarded the Medal of Honor on Feb. 23, 1945, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty," as the official citation describes it. He "daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire" coming out of reinforced concrete pillboxes, on which bazooka and mortar rounds had no effect.

At one point, Williams mounted a pillbox, stuck the flamethrower's nozzle through an air vent and killed the enemy within it.

Two of the Marines covering Williams died that day, but he never knew their names and never knew where their remains rested until just a few months ago.

On Saturday, Williams, with the Medal of Honor hanging around his neck, stood over the Hawaiian grave of Charles G. Fischer, one of those "guardian angels" who helped him survive that day and is buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, nicknamed the Punchbowl.

He saluted the Marine, who died a private first class that day, and then slowly bent down and placed a purple lei upon his headstone.

"I have always said I'm just the caretaker of it," Williams said later of the Medal of Honor. "It belongs to them. They sacrificed for it. I didn't."

Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded to men who fought on Iwo Jima; Williams is the last recipient still alive.

Williams was in Hawaii to dedicate a



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

**Hershel "Woody" Williams salutes Saturday before the gravesite of Charles G. Fischer, a Marine Corps rifleman who died in Iwo Jima while providing covering fire for Williams. Williams learned of Fischer's identity and location only months ago.**

Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. The monument was initiated by Williams through the organization he founded, the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. This is the foundation's 33rd monument to be dedicated; they recognize the sacrifices made by families who have lost loved ones in the service of their country.

After the Saturday morning dedication, Williams, 94, visited the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu, where the remains of hundreds of servicemen who died during World War II are interred.

Patrick O'Leary, a foundation board member whom Williams has dubbed his "research guru," sleuthed the identity of Fischer by poring through hundreds of military documents concerning the two Jima campaign waged in February and March 1945. Using five witness statements that had been given in the course of recommending Williams for the Medal of Honor,

O'Leary was able to reliably pinpoint the company the riflemen were in and found that only a corporal and a private first class had been killed that day.

"It just has to be them," O'Leary said. "Nothing else fits."

Last fall he tracked down Fischer's gravesite in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The other Marine is buried in Long Island, N.Y.

Williams also visited for the first time the grave of Vernon Waters, a fellow Marine and close friend who died on Iwo Jima.

They had become very close in the lead-up to the Iwo Jima campaign, fostering a feeling of devotion in Williams so strong that he ultimately risked court-martial.

While on the island of Guam, Waters and Williams had made a pact that should either of them be killed, the other would return their rings to family members.

Williams' girlfriend had given him a ring with a "wee, tiny little ruby" in it before he left for the Marine Corps.

"Wasn't as big as a pea but wasn't as little as a pinhead," he said. "It was just plain metal and could turn your finger green because it was just metal. She gave me that ring and said, 'Every time you look at that, you think of me.'

"Her name was Ruby," he said. "Psychologically, it worked."

Waters' father had given him a ring that he wore on his index finger because his ring and middle fingers were congenitally fused, Williams said.

The two Marines shook hands and agreed to the mutual return.

Waters was killed by mortar fire on Iwo Jima, and Williams found his body "stretched out on the ground," he said.

"And there's that ring," he said. "I have to get that ring."

"We'd been told over and over by the Marine Corps leaders, you never, ever take anything off a dead Marine's body. That's a court-martial offense. You do not do that."

But there was that bond, he said, and so he worked the ring off his friend's battle-stained hands, which left an obvious white circle where the Pacific sun had not shined for two years.

"I knew someone was going to see that, so I got some dirt and rubbed it on and that didn't do much, so I spit in my hand and made some mud and covered it all back up," he said. "I stuck the ring in my pocket."

In late 1945, he was back in the States without a job, no car, very little money and a new wife: Ruby. But getting that ring to Waters' parents in Montana was "the first thing on my list," he said, and with a borrowed car rolling on bald tires, the newlyweds made the car trip to Montana.

"It was quite emotional," he said of handing over the ring. "I've said many times, it was almost like delivering the most precious thing in the world. He was still buried on Iwo Jima. They had no information as to what was going to happen, whether they were going to leave him there."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattOlson

## US soldier's story links immigration, war

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Alessandro Sabbadini was dishonorably discharged, his head shaved for extra humiliation, and jettisoned from the Italian army for being Jewish.

It was 1939. The year before, Italy had passed its racial law that stripped Jews of their citizenship, property, livelihoods and, ultimately, their lives.

Sabbadini, using family connections and a knowledge of how to get around restrictive immigration laws, made his way to New York City.

It was only a matter of time until the U.S. would enter the war. Sabbadini planned to help the U.S. Army fight it.

He enlisted and spent most of the war doing just that, fighting in some of the Italian campaign's fiercest battles. He spent four months fighting against the German artillery bombardment at Anzio, on the beach where his family had owned a summer house and

"He's a guy fighting Italians,

fighting Germany, and he's not a citizen," Roger Sabbadini said.

where 7,000 British and American troops were killed in action.

Sabbadini's son, Roger, a California physiologist who wrote a book about his father and the Allies' Italian campaign, gave a talk Thursday at Caserma Ederle, re-counting the story.

"It connects Italy, World War II and the U.S. — our ideals," U.S. Army Africa Sgt. Maj. Gonzalo Gonzalez said in his introduction. "It's an intriguing story and a fascinating bond and the reason why we are still here on Italian soil."

The U.S. Army rejected Sabbadini three times as an "enemy alien," his son said, until officials decided that European refugees with language skills and cultural knowledge could be an intelligence asset. Sabbadini's job was to accompany front-line troops in Italy to seize, translate and photograph documents found at captured enemy command posts.

"He's a guy fighting Italians, fighting Germany, and he's not a citizen," Roger Sabbadini said.

That changed after 1942, when the Immigration and Naturalization Service began to naturalize servicemen.

Henry B. Hazard, INS director of research and educational services, performed more overseas naturalizations during the war than any other official. Hazard visited six continents to naturalize 6,574 servicemen between 1943 and 1945. Sabbadini was one of them, in a battlefield ceremony.

Sabbadini eventually got to Rome and found that his family had escaped the fascists and the Nazis, either to other countries or by hiding in the countryside with the help of friends.

"Many Jews were able to find shelter with Italians," according to Yad Vashem, of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center. "The fact that the Allies were already on Italian soil and that their victory became a certainty probably played an important role in the willingness to help the persecuted. On the other hand, there were also many cases of denun-

Dishonorable discharge from  
Italian army, 1939



MARK TURNER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Alessandro Sabbadini, who was discharged from the Italian army in 1939 for being Jewish, fled to America, joined the U.S. Army and worked in intelligence on the front lines in Italy during World War II.

cations resulting in arrests."

Of 44,500 Italian Jews, 7,680 perished during the Holocaust.

Sabbadini returned to the U.S. after the war, married and started a business. His story is really about immigrants, Roger Sabbadini said.

"Here's an immigrant who did his job, he served in the military, he shed blood for his country. It's the story of an immigrant doing well."

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com  
Twitter: @montgomery\_nancy

## MILITARY

# Paralympians meet with US soldiers at South Korea base

By MARCUS FICHTL  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — Fresh off the slopes, two-time Paralympic medalist Noah Elliott may have more photos of soldiers than the soldiers have of him after a visit to the Army's northern artillery outpost in South Korea on Saturday.

The snowboarder let the soldiers try on his gold and bronze medals during a meet and greet with about 200 soldiers at Camp Casey. He called Saturday's moments the "icing on the cake."

"It's a priceless opportunity to be able to come out here and support those who support us," Elliott told Stars and Stripes. "It's truly an honor to meet those guys who made it possible."

Elliott won the gold in the banked slalom and the bronze in the snowboard cross in the 2018 Paralympics, which ended Sunday in the South Korean town of Pyeongchang.

Second Lt. Hannah Jones, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, was fresh off a 9-mile rock march in commemoration of the 1942 Bataan Death March when she learned Paralympians were waiting for them at the finish line.

She placed second during the rock march and said it was "surreal" when she had a chance to put the vaunted gold around her neck.

Jones, 24, said Elliott told her receiving the medal wasn't the most special part.

"It was when he stood up and they played the national anthem and raised the United States flag,"

**'It's a priceless opportunity to be able to come out here and support those who support us.'**

Noah Elliott  
Paralympic medalist

said Jones, of Mooresville, Ind.

Three other Paralympians joined Elliott at the meet and greet. They were fellow snowboarders Mike Spivey, Jimmy Sides and Arlene Cohen. Sides and Spivey are former Marines.

Sides, who lost part of his right arm while attempting to deactivate a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 2010, said it didn't bother him that North Koreans, Iranians or anyone else participated in the Paralympics.

"Everyone was there representing their country and the sport that they love to do. That was the sole reason for being here," he said.

The athletes then boarded a bus and headed to Camp Bonifas to visit the soldiers standing guard at the truce village of Panmunjom, which straddles the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea.

"I've just heard stories (about Panmunjom). I'm superexcited to go out there and check it out for myself and hear what the guys have to share," Elliott said.

fichtl.marcus@stripes.com

Twitter: @marcusfichtl



PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

Above: Paralympian Noah Elliott checks out a soldier's hammer at Camp Casey, South Korea, on Saturday. Below: Second Lt. Hannah Jones, left, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, and Sara Cratsenberg pose with Elliott's gold and bronze medals as Paralympian Jimmy Sides takes their photo.



## VA delays distribution of veteran ID cards

By NIKKI WENTLING  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Thousands of veterans who started applying for new identification cards through the Department of Veterans Affairs in November won't see them until April, according to the agency.

VA spokesman Curt Cashour said in January the cards were supposed to be mailed in early March. But on Friday, he said the agency is working with a vendor to approve samples of the new cards before printing them, and distribution has been pushed back to April.

**'[We expect to complete this process soon so approved cards can be printed and mailed,'**

Curt Cashour  
VA spokesman

"[We expect to complete this process soon so approved cards can be printed and mailed,"

Cashour wrote in an emailed statement.

It's another in a series of delays in distributing the new, free cards. The IDs are intended to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information. The new IDs do not replace VA medical cards or defense retiree cards, nor do they qualify as official government-issued identification.

High demand for the cards crashed a VA webpage in December, when some veterans were met with error messages or a webpage that failed to load. The VA temporarily stopped the online application process and asked veterans seeking new ID cards to leave their email addresses, stating they'd be notified when they could apply.

The VA began taking online applications again at the end of January. As of Jan. 29, the VA was processing 14,609 applications for the cards. By last Tuesday, that had grown to 64,759 veterans seeking the new IDs, Cashour said.

Any veteran who served in the armed forces, including the reserves, and has an honorable or general discharge can request the ID. Veterans can apply at the vets.gov website and will be asked to create an online account.

Veterans who don't want to wait for a printed ID can immediately download an image of their card directly from the VA website to either print or use on their mobile phones. In 2015, Congress ordered the VA to create the cards to make it easier for veterans to receive certain benefits such as discounts at stores and restaurants.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

## 'Hawks', Hornets arrive at Iwakuni for deployment

By JAMES BOLINGER  
*Stars and Stripes*

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Members of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 and their FA-18D Hornets landed at Iwakuni on Thursday for a six-month deployment.

Also known as the "Hawks," the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.-based unit replaces a sister squadron, VMFA-251, which has returned to South Carolina.

"The Hawks have a long-standing relationship with Iwakuni and our Japanese allies," Lt. Col. William Millett III, VMFA-533 commander, said in a Marine Corps statement. "We are excited to serve with the 'Ready Group' and to strengthen our international partnership."

"Those of us that have been seen old

friends and introduce our new squadron mates to Japan and Japanese culture," he added.

The Hornets flown by VMFA-533 are used for attack, tactical air control, forward air control and reconnaissance.

While in Japan, the squadron will support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander with command and control, reconnaissance and destruction of enemy ground and air assets. They will also support expeditionary, joint and combined operations.

"Deploying to Japan and the Western Pacific gives the Hawks the opportunity to fly in new and challenging ranges while focusing on the collective security of the region," Millett said in the statement.

Such deployments typically last six months, although the length can change if the operational environment shifts.

The base is also home to ele-



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

An FA-18D Hornet from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 prepares to depart Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for Japan earlier this month.

Iwakuni is the home of Marine Aircraft Group 12, which flies F/A-18E Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, E-2D Hawkeyes and C-2A Greyhounds.

bolinger.james@stripes.com  
Twitter: @bolinger2004

ments of the Navy's Carrier Air Wing 5, which flies F/A-18E Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, E-2D Hawkeyes and C-2A Greyhounds.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com

Twitter: @nikkiwentling

# WAR ON TERRORISM



DHA-DEPO/AP

Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army soldiers celebrate around a statue of Kawa, a mythology figure in Kurdish culture, after they destroyed it in Afrin, northwestern Syria, early Sunday.

## Turkey: Syria's Afrin taken

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY  
AND SARAH EL DEEB  
*Associated Press*

ISTANBUL — Turkey's president said Sunday that the Turkish military and allied Syrian forces have taken "total" control of the town center of Afrin, a major development in the nearly two-month offensive against a Syrian Kurdish militia that controls the area.

The Kurdish militia called the assault on Afrin an "occupation" and vowed a "new phase" of guerrilla tactics against Turkish troops and its allied Syrian fighters.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the Turkish flag and the flag of the Syrian opposition fighters have been raised in the town, previously controlled by the Kurdish militia known as the People's Defense Units, or YPG.

"Many of the terrorists had turned tail and run away already," Erdogan said in a speech in western Turkey. "In Afrin's center, it is

no longer the rags of the terror organization that are waving but rather the symbols of peace and security."

It is not clear what Turkey will do after the capture of Afrin. Turkey views the Kurdish forces in the Afrin enclave along the border as terrorists linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decades-long insurgency within Turkey's borders.

Erdogan has repeatedly said Turkey will not allow a "terror corridor" along its border and has vowed to push east after Afrin. Erdogan threatened to move on to Manbij, a Kurdish-run town to the east where U.S. troops have also maintained a presence after it was cleared of Islamic State militants in 2016.

Washington's support for the YPG, including arming the militia and relying on it to battle ISIS militants in eastern Syria, has strained relations between Turkey and the U.S. A push east could

further inflame tensions.

In an attempt to prevent such a move east, Washington began discussions to address Turkey's concerns about the Kurdish militia's presence in Manbij. Turkey wants the YPG to pull out of the town.

Meanwhile, U.S. and Kurdish officials said Turkey's fight with the YPG has distracted from fighting ISIS. A Kurdish official Sunday said the fight against ISIS in northeastern Deir el-Zour province, where remnants of ISIS have remained, was put on hold as the battle for Afrin unfolded.

On Sunday, Kurdish officials said they had evacuated Afrin of civilians. Footage of long lines of vehicles leaving the town was aired on Syrian state-run TV. Other residents went out on foot or on motorcycles.

Later Sunday, limited fighting was reported in some pockets in the Afrin town center. The Turkish military said it was combating the area for land mines and explosives.

## All US victims of Iraq helo crash identified

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The seven U.S. servicemembers killed Thursday night in a helicopter crash in western Iraq near the Syrian border have been identified.

The Department of Defense statement confirmed some of the fatalities were members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, based in Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

The airmen were identified as Capt. Mark K. Weber, 29, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Capt. Andrew B. O'Keefe, 37, of Center Moriches, N.Y.; Capt. Christopher T. Zanetis, 37, of Long Island City, N.Y.; Master Sgt. Christopher J. Raguso, 39, of Commack, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. Dathan J. Briggs, 30, of Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.; Master Sgt. William R. Posch, 36, of Indialantic, Fla.; and Staff Sgt. Carl P. Enis, 31, of Tallahassee, Fla.

Weber was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Posch and Enis were assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., according to the official statement.

New York City Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said Raguso and Zanetis "bravely wore two uniforms in their extraordinary lives of service" with the fire department and the U.S. armed forces.

"He was a very stand-up, moral, ethical person, up one side and down the other," Zanetis' father told the New York Post. "He just wanted to be of service. He served people in the fire department and in the military and was going to do the same thing as a lawyer."

The HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crash did not appear to be the result of enemy activity, according

to a statement from the U.S.-led operation battling Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Used by the Air Force for combat search and rescue, the Pave Hawk was on a routine transit flight when it went down near the town of Qaim, in Anbar province, officials said.

A second helicopter accompanying it immediately reported the crash, and a quick-reaction force of Iraqi and coalition forces secured the scene, officials said.

"We are grateful to the Iraqi security forces for their immediate assistance in response to this tragic incident," said Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga, director of operations for Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve. "This tragedy reminds us of the risks our men and women face every day in service of our nation. We are thinking of the loved ones of these servicemen today."

President Donald Trump tweeted Friday that their sacrifices "will never be forgotten."

On their Facebook profiles, some Air Force members and veterans in a group for Pave Hawk crewmembers and others began replacing their profile photos with images of two green footprints with a black ribbon, on which was written the Air Force pararescue motto, "That others may live."

The U.S.-led coalition battling ISIS insurgents in Iraq and Syria have an outpost in Qaim, which is located near the Syrian border. The crash Thursday was the second deadly aviation incident for the U.S. military in as many days; a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet crashed off the coast of Florida on Wednesday, killing both crewmembers aboard.

garland.chad@stripes.com

Twitter: @chadgarland

## Botched suicide attack wounds 5 university students in Kabul

By AMIR SHAH  
*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — An attacker dressed in a school uniform set off a grenade amid a group of hundreds of university students in Afghanistan's capital on Sunday, killing himself and wounding five students, according to the district police chief.

Nasir Nadery said the attacker, who slipped past two guards, was wearing an explosives vest that failed to explode. The students

were inside a private compound where they were taking classes to prepare for university exams.

The attack took place in a Kabul neighborhood dominated by ethnic Hazaras, a Shiite minority frequently targeted by the Sunni extremists.

No one immediately claimed the attack, which resembled previous assaults carried out by Islamic State.

On Saturday, a sticky bomb attached to the motorcycle driven by a retired Pakistani army of-

ficer exploded in southern Kabul's Shahjir district, killing the officer and his guard, according to the provincial government spokesman, Gul Islam Soley.

Pakistan has been criticized by both the United States and Afghanistan for aiding Taliban insurgents, a charge it denies. Soley said the retired officer was aiding the Taliban, although he did not provide any proof of his claim.

A Pakistani military official said they have no knowledge of

any retired officer killed in Afghanistan. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Meanwhile, the Taliban attacked security positions northwest of Kabul, killing at least five police officers and setting off a two-hour gunbattle, according to Mohammed Zamani, the police chief for Ghazni province.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks across Afghanistan since the U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at

the end of 2014.

In the western Ghor province, meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed a young shepherd and wounded five others. Police spokesman Iqbal Nizami said the Taliban planted the bomb in order to target security forces.

In the eastern Khost province, police spokesman Basir Bina said a roadside bomb killed two children and wounded another nine. Both bombs went off on Saturday.

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## NATION

# Trump rails against Mueller investigation, McCabe

By PHILIP RUCKER

*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump fired off angry tweets Sunday morning railing against the Justice Department special counsel's Russia investigation and attacking the integrity of former FBI director James Comey and his former deputy, Andrew McCabe, charging that their notes from conversations with him were "Fake Memos."

For the second straight day, Trump was unrestrained in his commentary about Robert Mueller III's expanding investigation, which is probing not only Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible links to his campaign, but also whether the president has sought to obstruct justice.

In one of his tweets, Trump protested, "Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big Crooked Hillary supporters, and Zero Republicans?" Another Dem recently added... does anyone think this is fair? And yet, there is NO COLLUSION!"

The tweet overstates the partisan makeup of the special counsel's team and falsely asserts that no Republicans are on it.

Mueller is a longtime Republican. He was nominated as FBI director in 2001 by a Republican president, George W. Bush, and was appointed special counsel by the Republican whom Trump picked to be deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein.

At least seven of the 17 lawyers brought on by Mueller — including James Quarles, Jeannie Rhee and Andrew Weissman — have donated to Democratic political candidates, five of them to Hillary Clinton, Trump's 2016 opponent.

Under instruction from his attorneys, Trump has in the past been careful not to publicly criticize Mueller by name or otherwise directly antagonize the special counsel, but rather to make more general criticisms. On Saturday night, in an apparent



EVAN VUCCI/AP

**In a series of weekend tweets, some containing false assertions, President Donald Trump lashed out at the investigation of possible collusion between his presidential campaign and Russia.**

change of strategy, Trump for the first time tweeted the name of the special counsel.

"The Mueller probe should never have been started in that there was no collusion and there was no crime," Trump wrote. "It was based on fraudulent activities and a Fake Dossier paid for by Crooked Hillary and the DNC, and improperly used in FISA COURT for surveillance of my COUNTRY."

The president's attack comes after his personal attorney, John Dowd, on Saturday called for an end to the Mueller investigation. He initially told the Daily Beast that he was speaking on behalf of the president, though he later backtracked and told The Washington Post that he was speaking only for himself.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., a member of the House Intelligence Committee, warned Trump that any interference in the Mueller probe would result in "a very, very long, bad 2018."

"If you have an innocent client, Mr. Dowd, act like it," Gowdy said on "Fox News Sunday." "Russia attacked our country. Let special counsel Mueller figure that out."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., warned that a move by Trump to order the firing of Mueller would be a step too far for lawmakers. "If he tried to do that, that would be the beginning of the end of his presidency because we're a rule-of-law nation," Graham said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Sen. Richard Durbin, of Illinois, the chamber's second-ranking Democrat, said he is concerned about "a constitutional crisis in this country."

"This president is engaged in desperate and reckless conduct to intimidate the law enforcement agencies in this country and to try and stop the special counsel," Durbin said on "Fox News Sunday." "That is unacceptable in a democracy."

In a pair of separate tweets on Sunday, Trump also attacked Comey and McCabe, both regular foils to the president. Trump sent his Sunday tweets from the White House. He departed the residence shortly before 10 a.m., heading to the Trump National Golf Club in Northern Virginia. Aides would not say who the president's golfing partners would be.

## Special counsel has memos McCabe kept on Trump dealings

By ERIC TUCKER  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Andrew McCabe, the onetime FBI deputy director long scorned by President Donald Trump and just fired by the attorney general, kept personal memos detailing interactions with the president that have been provided to the special counsel's office and are similar to the notes compiled by dismissed FBI chief James Comey, The Associated Press has learned.

The memos could factor into special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation as his team examines Trump campaign ties to Russia and possible obstruction of justice.

Mccabe's memos include details of his own interactions with the president, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation who wasn't authorized to discuss the notes publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. They also recount different conversations he had with Comey, who kept notes on meetings with Trump that unnerved him.

Though the precise contents are unknown, the memos possibly could help substantiate McCabe's assertion that he was unfairly maligned by a White House he says had declared "war" on the FBI and Mueller's investigation. They almost certainly contain, as Comey's memos did, previously undisclosed details about encounters between the Trump administration and FBI that could be of interest to Mueller.

The disclosure Saturday

came hours after Trump called McCabe's firing by Attorney General Jeff Sessions "a great day for Democracy" and asserted without elaboration that McCabe knew "all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels off the FBI."

That sent former CIA Director John Brennan, an outspoken Trump critic, into a Twitter tizzy: "When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history. You may scapegoat Andy McCabe, but you will not destroy America... America will triumph over you."

Sessions said he acted on the recommendation of FBI disciplinary officials who said McCabe had not been candid with a watchdog office investigation. McCabe was fired two days before his retirement date on Sunday.

An upcoming inspector general's report is expected to conclude that McCabe, who spent more than 20 years with the FBI, had authorized the release of information to the media and was not forthcoming with the watchdog office as it examined the bureau's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. McCabe has vigorously disputed the allegations and said his credibility had been attacked as "part of a larger effort not just to slander me personally" but also the FBI and law enforcement.

## Congressman offers deputy FBI director a job to save pension

By AMBER PHILLIPS

*The Washington Post*

That's one way of protesting Andrew McCabe's firing as deputy FBI director, roughly a day before he was set to retire: At least one Democratic congressman has offered McCabe a temporary job so he can get full retirement benefits — and McCabe appears to be considering.

Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., announced Saturday afternoon that he has offered McCabe a job to work on election security in his office, "so that he can reach the needed length of service" to retire.

"My offer of employment to Mr. McCabe is a legitimate offer to work on election security," Pocan said in a statement. "Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of American democracy and both Republicans and Democrats should be concerned about election integrity."

A spokeswoman for McCabe, Melissa



McCabe

Schwartz, didn't immediately rule out a job with one of the most liberal members of Congress, which might only need to last for a day or so for him to get his full retirement benefits: "We are considering all options."

Rep. Seth Moulton,

D-Mass., tweeted that he'd consider hiring McCabe, too.

It's not immediately clear if getting fired from the FBI on a Friday and going to work on Capitol Hill on a Monday would solve McCabe's problems for certain, though at least one former federal official with knowledge of retirement rules says it probably would.

McCabe's team is confident that he had at least 20 years of law enforcement

work under his belt — defined as carrying a weapon or supervising people who do — which made him eligible to retire on his 50th birthday on Sunday with full retirement benefits.

With those 20 years, he would need to just go to work with the federal government for another day or so in any job he pleases, whether that's as an election security analyst for a Wisconsin congressman or a typist for a day, to get full benefits, said the former official. The job doesn't matter so much as the fact that he's working within the federal government with the same retirement benefits until or after his 50th birthday. (Though this former official stressed that it would probably look more ethical if McCabe worked for at least a pay period rather than just one day.)

McCabe began working at the FBI's New York field office in 1996, was promoted to a supervisor position at the FBI's headquarters in 2006, and held various jobs at

the bureau until 2016, when he was named deputy director. His final job at the FBI was an executive perch that likely doesn't count toward his law enforcement job, said the former retirement official.

McCabe stepped down from his FBI job in January amid attacks from President Donald Trump, but he had been using up accumulated leave to get to his birthday to receive full retirement benefits — a move Trump attacked him for on Twitter after The Washington Post reported his plans.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired McCabe late Friday night, about 26 hours before McCabe's retirement, citing an inspector general report from the Justice Department that had found that "Mr. McCabe had made an unauthorized disclosure to the news media and lacked candor — including under oath — on multiple occasions."

On Saturday evening, a spokesman for Pocan said they hadn't yet heard from McCabe on his job offer.

## NATION

# Authorities: All victims found in bridge collapse

BY KATHERINE SHAVER  
AND MICHAEL LARIS  
*The Washington Post*

Five bodies were extricated from the wreckage of a collapsed pedestrian bridge near Miami on Saturday. With a sixth person who died at a hospital, authorities said Saturday night that they thought had accounted for all those killed in the collapse.

The first two vehicles extricated Saturday were flattened and had a total of three bodies inside. Work continued, and more two bodies were found Saturday night.

Although authorities had said at one point that the number of fatalities could rise beyond six, they said at a 10 p.m. briefing that they thought they had accounted for all of the dead.

Of the eight vehicles originally caught beneath the 950-ton span, six had been trapped entirely, with four "very difficult to extract," said Maurice Kemp, deputy mayor of Miami-Dade County.

The recovery effort was "very

difficult," said Juan Perez, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, but it appeared that crews had "finally got the last victim out." He said another search through the wreckage would be made. But he said he was "confident that there was no one left."

Police confirmed that they are reviewing reports that construction workers said they heard a loud cracking sound come from the structure around 8 a.m. Thursday, almost six hours before the collapse.

"That's all part of the investigation," said Perez.

On Saturday, investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board identified pieces of the bridge structure to collect as evidence to "understand the collapse sequence and what caused it," said NTSB spokesman Christopher O'Neil.

Investigators also gathered documents on the span's design, construction and inspections, he said.

The NTSB's lead investigator in the collapse, Robert Accetta,



PEDRO PORTAL, MIAMI HERALD/AP

**Recovery operations continue at the site of the collapsed pedestrian bridge near Florida International University in Miami on Saturday. Florida authorities believe they have accounted for all of the dead.**

has said crews were working at the north end of the span when it fell. They were applying force "designed to strengthen" one of 10 diagonal elements connecting the walkway and an overhead section. Those diagonal pieces, known as members, are "integral parts" of the structure, Accetta said.

"There were two cables that they were working on at that time," Accetta said Friday evening. "They were internal to that diagonal member."

He said it is unclear whether the collapse started in that area, and investigators have not determined whether the tightening of those cables "was related to the cracks that they discovered."

"A crack in a bridge does not necessarily mean that it's unsafe," Accetta said.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said he was frustrated that state and university officials were "pointing fingers at the other guy."

"Whose responsibility was it?" Nelson asked. "If there was a two-hour meeting that occurred from 9 to 11, and the bridge collapsed ... just a few hours later, then somebody needs to be held accountable."

On Saturday morning, flatbed trucks carried two vehicles, draped in black tarps, to the medical examiner's office.

Police identified four victims as Oswald Gonzalez, 57; Alberto Arias, 53; Navarro Brown, and Rolando Fraga Hernandez.

Brown died at a hospital, police said. Hernandez was in a gold Jeep Cherokee pulled from the rubble at 5:40 a.m. Saturday, and Gonzalez and Arias were in a white Chevrolet extricated at 7 a.m., police said.

Relatives also have confirmed the death of Alexa Duran, 18, according to media accounts.

Perez said chaplains were with victims' families, and workers held moments of silence as vehicles were brought out "so these victims can have some dignity." "It's going to be a long process," Perez said. "We've been saying that from the beginning because of the amount of weight and the size of the structure that is laying on top of these vehicles."

## US: Russian hack didn't compromise power grid, plants

BY MATTHEW DALY  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A Russian government hacking operation aimed at the U.S. power grid did not compromise operations at any of the nation's power plants, federal regulators and the industry said Friday.

Corporate networks at some of the 99 nuclear power plants licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were affected by the 2017 hack aimed at the energy grid and other infrastructure, but no safety, security or emergency preparedness functions were affected, the NRC said in a statement.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also said the incident had no operational impacts on interstate transmission of electricity.

Even so, government and industry leaders said the attacks underscored the increased threat of electronic and computer-based attacks on a range of infrastructure.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said the prolonged cyberattack "demonstrates exactly why" he is creating an Office of Cyber Security and Emergency Response. The new office will consolidate and strengthen efforts to "combat the growing nefarious cyberthreats we face," Perry said, adding that his department worked closely with other federal agencies and energy providers to help ensure that hacking attempts "failed or were stopped."

The Trump administration accused Moscow on Thursday of an elaborate plot to penetrate America's electric grid, factories, water supply and even air travel through cyberhacking.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**Energy Secretary Rick Perry said he is creating an Office of Cyber Security and Emergency Response to help combat infrastructure threats.**

U.S. national security officials said the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and intelligence agencies determined Russian intelligence and others were behind a broad range of cyberattacks starting more than a year ago. Russian hackers infiltrated the networks that run the basic services Americans rely on each day: nuclear power, water and manufacturing plants.

U.S. officials said the hackers chose their targets methodically, obtained access to computer systems, conducted "network reconnaissance" and then attempted to cover their tracks by deleting evidence of the intrusions. The operation reportedly used various methods — including a kind of cyberattack known as spear-phishing — to try to compromise legitimate user accounts, gather user credentials, and target industrial control systems and their networks, officials said.

U.S. nuclear plants are designed as operational "islands" that are not connected to the internet and other networks. Nuclear power provides about 20 percent of the nation's electricity.

## 3 Ark. students paddled for walking out of school

BY MEGAN CERULLO  
*New York Daily News*

Three students at an Arkansas high school were swatted with a paddle for participating in a national walkout against gun violence Wednesday.

Students who left their Greenbrier High School classrooms in protest were reportedly given a choice of two punishments.

They could accept a suspension or receive a paddle down, Arkansas-Matters.com reported.

The Greenbrier Public Schools superintendent said students were disciplined for not alerting the school about the demonstration and leaving class.

Wylie Greer, 17, was among the three students who walked out of the school building.

When he returned to the classroom he was presented with his options.

He chose two swats with a wooden paddle over two days of suspension.

"In my mind, the in-school suspension was essentially conceding to sitting down and shutting up, which is what the admin and school wanted to happen, to keep it quiet almost," Greer told CNN. "I felt if I stood up and took the punishment in an honorable way,

that it was better than doing what they wanted me to do, which is shut up and go on with our lives.

"I don't think that they expected me to take the corporal punishment," he added.

Greenbrier Schools Superintendent Scott Spainhour said students were disciplined for walking out of class, which is against school policy.

Students at an Ohio school were disciplined for not leaving the classroom on the National Walkout Day.

Jacob Shoemaker, a senior at Hilliard Davidson High School, said he didn't want to place himself on either side of the gun control debate.

He remained in class and did homework for about 20 minutes while his teachers and other students walked out in protest.

He was later suspended from school.

"Student refused to follow instructions after being warned," his suspension notice read.

Shoemaker was suspended for remaining in the classroom rather than going to a part of the school designated for nonprotesters, The Washington Post reported.

## NATION

# Retired Navy captain to overhaul Hawaii agency

BY AUDREY MCAVOY  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii on Friday appointed a retired Navy captain to lead an overhaul of the state Emergency Management Agency two months after an employee mistakenly sent an alert warning of a ballistic missile attack.

Thomas Travis has commanded a submarine squadron and was deputy commander of an aircraft carrier strike group. Travis served as the studies director of the Joint Center for Operational Analysis, where he helped prepare a report on the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

The false missile alert sent to cellphones and airwaves in January triggered widespread panic and led to the ouster of the agency's senior leadership.

Travis declined to comment on what went wrong with the missile alert, telling reporters he has read the reports on the incident but

hasn't investigated the issue himself. He said he would first aim to get to know agency staff and work with them to solve problems "and make sure we can do things right on a day-to-day basis."

He declined to comment on whether the federal government, as U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, has suggested, should be in charge of sending warnings about ballistic missile attacks.

Travis has one personal experience with disasters in Hawaii. He spoke of living through Tropical Storm Iselle, which toppled trees and knocked out power in the Big Island's Puna district in 2014. Travis was living in Kapoho at the time. He shared memories of using a chainsaw to cut trees and clear roads.

He said he didn't lose power because he and his wife lived off the grid with solar panels and batteries.

"I really have always loved Hawaii. It's given a lot to me, and I hope to be able to give back," Travis said when asked why he took the job.

The agency's previous director, Vern Miyagi, resigned after the alert mishap. The employee who sent the alert was fired. A second worker quit before disciplinary action was taken, and another was suspended without pay.

The agency said the alert was sent during a routine exercise. The employee who sent the alert said he didn't hear the word "exercise" being spoken and he believed the threat was real.

# Mobile



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## NATION

# Winning Powerball ticket is sold in Pa.

By ALEX HORTON  
*The Washington Post*

If you bought some Powerball tickets in a St. Patrick's Day haze on Saturday, check your pockets.

A ticket sold in Pennsylvania matched the drawing for an estimated \$456.7 million, the Multi-State Lottery Association said. The winning numbers were 22-57-59-60-66, and the Powerball was 7.

There were other tickets that scored big payouts, too. A ticket sold in Texas won \$2 million after a player or players opted to chip in an extra dollar. Two tickets sold in California and Missouri matched the numbers for a \$1 million payout.

The Pennsylvania ticket's winnings were the eighth-largest in the game's history, the lottery association said.

That win comes nearly a week after a judge ruled that a woman in New Hampshire could remain anonymous after claiming a \$560 million jackpot.

If the new millionaire in Pennsylvania wants to keep their identity secret, they would probably face a similar legal hurdle. The Pennsylvania Lottery requires winners to be named to ensure that the system operates with "integrity and transparency."

But past winners have argued that the raised profile makes them targets.

Judge Charles Temple, who ruled in favor of the New Hampshire woman, concluded that revealing her name would be an invasion of privacy, in part because lottery winners in general are subject to "repeated solicitation, harassment, and even violence," he wrote.

He cited how a past lottery winner received a bomb threat, how another had received nonstop phone calls and how several others had received requests from strangers who wanted handouts.

Less than three years ago, your chances of becoming an instant millionaire were 1 in roughly 175 million after starting with a \$2 ticket. Now, the odds are 1 in roughly 292 million.

Tweaks to the game in October 2015 increased the number of total balls, from 59 to 69, from which players need to pick five. It may seem like a modest change, but the odds of winning the jackpot plummeted.

So now it's even harder to strike it rich with Powerball, leading to fewer chances of big payouts, which in turn results in ballooning jackpots. When a drawing is held and there's no winning ticket, the prize pool rolls over—and expands. In turn, the jackpots become bigger and bigger, making winnings of half a billion dollars—like this one—almost feel routine.

## United flight diverted due to unauthorized dog onboard

By ALEX HORTON  
*The Washington Post*

United Airlines had an in-flight incident involving a dog.

No, not that one.

Or that other one.

Another one:

A United flight from Newark, N.J., to St. Louis was diverted Thursday after the airline learned it had an unauthorized passenger onboard: a dog. The pet was bound for Akron, Ohio, but was mistakenly loaded onto the St. Louis flight, company spokeswoman Natalie Noonan told *The Washington Post* on Saturday.

And so the plane followed the dog's itinerary. Flight 3996 banked toward northeast Ohio after the airline "chose the fastest option to reunite the dog with his family," Noonan said.

Passengers were provided compensation for the delay, Noonan said, but she declined to describe the compensation or confirm how many passengers were onboard. CNN reported 33.

Ian Petchenik, a spokesman for the flight data company FlightAware24, told the Post that the flight averages about two hours. This was a four-hour journey, with roughly an hour and a half spent on the ground in Akron after diverting near Columbus, he said.

The incident was United's third

dog-related mishap last week; fortunately, this time it led to a happier conclusion than the first.

On March 12, a French bulldog puppy named Kokito suffocated in an overhead bin after a flight attendant insisted the owner stow the dog there for a three-hour flight from Houston to New York.

"This little guy fought hard for his life, filling our flight with his cries until he finally ran out of breath," passenger June Lara wrote on Facebook after the incident. "United Airlines does not care about the safety of their furry travelers. This poor family paid \$125 for their pet to be murdered in front of them."

United said it would take full responsibility for the "tragic accident that should never have occurred" and that pets should never be placed in the overhead bins. The Transportation Department is investigating the incident.

Then on Tuesday, another case of mistaken canine identity occurred on a United flight, sending a dog owner into a frenzy when she discovered a Great Dane in the place of her German shepherd, Igro, in a facility at the Kansas City airport.

Kara Swindle paid to ship Igro as cargo on a flight from Oregon to Kansas, but instead the German shepherd was put on a flight to Japan.

The incident was United's third



**A New York City firefighter high-fives spectators as they watch the St. Patrick's Day parade Saturday in Manhattan.**

## Ireland's prime minister joins NYC St. Patrick's Day parade

By DAVID JEANS  
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK—Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar joined along as Manhattan's Fifth Avenue came alive with the sound of bagpipes, trumpets and crowds decked out in lots of green Saturday at the 257th running of New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Several bagpipe bands led a parade made up of more than 100 marching bands after Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo spoke briefly, calling it a "day of inclusion" and adding: "We're all immigrants."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, also a Democrat, marched with police Commissioner James O'Neill under sunny skies.

Varadkar, Ireland's first openly gay leader, watched the parade at St. Patrick's Cathedral before joining the march. In remarks, Cuomo said it was "my pleasure to march with him," especially with so many immigrants.

The parade, beginning at 11 a.m., lasted nearly six hours. An estimated 150,000 marchers made the 1.4-mile trek past Central Park, the cathedral and Trump Tower.

Large since the mid-1800s, the parade has celebrated Irish culture and Irish immigrants, who once faced nativist calls for their exclusion from the workforce—and from the country—when they began arriving in the city in huge numbers during the Irish Famine.

In the 1990s, parade organizers were involved in an annual court fight over whether to exclude openly gay groups from



**Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, left, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo walk along Fifth Avenue during the St. Patrick's Day parade.**

the march. This year, at least two groups in the parade had banners identifying marchers as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

For the 167th time, the lead group marching in the parade was 800 members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, of the New York Army National Guard. Cuomo joined them. The regiment, once predominantly made up of Irish immigrants, first led the parade in 1851 as a deterrent to anti-immigrant violence.

Judy Hughes, whose father used to march with the 69th Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Fighting Irish," said she's been attending the parade "since I was a little girl."

Her husband, Bill Hughes, a retired police officer who marched in the parade for 10 years, looked on as a band passed.

"It's better being on the other side," he said.

This year's grand marshal was Loretta Brennan Glucksmann,

chairwoman of The American Ireland Fund, a group that has raised millions of dollars for philanthropic projects in Ireland, including funding for integrated schools for Catholic and Protestant children in Northern Ireland.

She rode along the parade route in a Central Park horse carriage driven by a family friend.

The parade was a familiar occasion for Matthew McCrosson, 68, who has frequently marched in it during the past half-century.

"The parade truly signifies the Irish investment over 250 years in the greater New York area," McCrosson said. "The parade represents not only Irish, but people from all nationalities."

Danny and Carol Manley, an Irish New Jersey couple, watched the parade with their son, Dan Jr. "We like to come back, get together, see the bagpipers and see how the generations have grown up," Danny Manley said.

## WORLD

# Putin elected to 4th presidential term

BY NATALIYA VASILYeva  
AND ANGELA CHARLTON  
*Associated Press*

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — An exit poll and early returns suggest that Vladimir Putin has easily won a fourth term, keeping him as Russia's president for six more years.

The nationwide exit poll conducted by the All-Russia Opinion Research Center showed that Putin won 73.9 percent of Sunday's presidential vote. The poll covered 161,000 respondents at 1,200 precincts in 68 Russian provinces and had a margin of error of no more than 3.5 percent.

The exit poll findings looked similar to early results from Russia's Far East, where the presidential vote ended eight hours ago. The Central Election Commission said with 21 percent of all precincts counted, Putin was leading the race with 71.9 percent of the vote.

The exit poll showed Communist candidate Pavel Grudinin in second place with 11.2 percent of the vote, while ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky came in third with 6.7 percent.

The vote Sunday was tainted by widespread reports of ballot-box stuffing and forced voting, but

the complaints will likely do little to undermine Putin.

Putin's main challenges in the election were to obtain a huge margin of victory in order to claim an indisputable mandate. The exit poll suggests he got more than 70 percent of the vote.

He faced seven minor candidates on the ballot. Putin's most vehement and visible foe, anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny, was rejected as a candidate because he was convicted of fraud in a case widely regarded as politically motivated.

Casting his ballot in Moscow, Putin seemed confident of victory, saying he would consider any percentage of votes a success.

Given the lack of real competition, authorities were struggling against voter apathy — and put many of Russia's nearly 111 million voters under intense pressure to cast ballots.

Election monitors were reporting irregularities at voting stations across Russia, even though election authorities were under orders to ensure voting was free and fair after violations marred Putin's last election in 2012.

Back then, Putin faced a serious opposition movement, but since then he has boosted his popularity thanks to Russian actions in Ukraine and Syria. Now,



**A woman prepares to cast her ballot in the presidential election in Moscow on Sunday.**

he faces seven challengers but no serious threat to his rule.

Many voters said they were under pressure from their employers to vote.

Vyacheslav Roizman, the mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city, Yevgeny Roizman, the mayor of Yekaterinburg, told The Associated Press that local officials and state employees have all received orders "from higher up" to make sure the presidential vote turnout is over 60 percent.

A doctor at one of the city's hospitals told the AP how one kind of voting pressure works.

The doctor, who gave her name only as Yekaterina because of fears about repercussions, said she and her co-workers were told to fill out forms detailing not only where they would cast their ballots, but giving the names and details of two "allies" whom they promised to persuade to go vote.

"People were indignant at first, said: 'They're violating our rights ... but what can you do?' she said at a cafe Saturday.

# UK says Russia has stash of nerve agent

By JILL LAWLESS  
*Associated Press*

poisoning.

Chizhov pointed out that the U.K. chemical weapons research facility, Porton Down, is only 8 miles from Salisbury, where Skripal — a former Russian intelligence officer convicted in his home country of spying for Britain — and his daughter were found March 4. They remain in critical condition.

Asked as he was saying Porton

Down was responsible, Chizhov replied, "I don't know."

The U.K. government dismissed the ambassador's suggestion as "nonsense."

**Johnson**

**Britain**

and Russia have each expelled 23 diplomats, broken off high-level contacts and taken other punitive steps in the escalating tit-for-tat dispute, which clouded the run-up to Sunday's presidential election in Russia. Exit polls showed President Vladimir Putin easily won a fourth term amid widespread voter apathy.

Western powers see the poisoning of the Skripals as the latest sign of increasingly aggressive Russian interference in foreign countries.

Johnson said Britain's National Security Council will meet to discuss "what further measures if any" the country will take.

Russia's ambassador in London, Alexander Yakovenko, called for "cooler heads," telling the Mail on Sunday that the dispute is "escalating dangerously and out of proportion."

# N. Korean diplomat heads to Finland for US talks

*Associated Press*

further details.

Choe was in the delegation North Korea sent to last month's Winter Olympics in South Korea.

On Saturday, Sweden's foreign minister concluded three days of talks in Stockholm with her North Korean counterpart, saying they discussed the "opportunities and challenges for continued diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution" to the Korea's security dispute.

Sweden has been rumored as a possible site for a U.S.-North Korea summit, though a true village on the South Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreas is seen as more likely.

Trump has agreed to meet Kim by May. So far, North Korea has yet to comment publicly on what it hopes to gain from the talks.

Senior South Korean officials who traveled to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang this month and met with Kim say he is willing to discuss the North's nuclear weapons program.



**BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP**

**Firefighters battle a fire at the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino in Manila, Philippines, on Sunday.**

# Hotel fire in Manila leaves at least 3 dead

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — A fire that hit a hotel and casino complex in the Philippine capital on Sunday killed at least three employees, trapped two others and forced the evacuation of more than 300 guests, some by helicopter, officials said.

Police said it remains unclear if the fire at the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino, which was still raging after seven hours, started in the casino or in an area of the hotel that was under renovation.

TV footage showed dark gray smoke billowing from the first and second floors of the hotel as rescuers brought people out of the building.

Johnny Yu, who heads Manila's disaster-response

agency, told reporters that at least six other people were overwhelmed by heavy smoke and taken to a hospital. Among the dead were two security guards and a treasury officer, he said.

Yu initially said at least four people died in the fire, but other officials later said that one of those who was feared to have died was revived by doctors at a hospital and was in critical condition.

"The smoke is very heavy and, second, there's the wind that we're trying to overcome," Yu said. "Our firefighters are having a lot of difficulty."

At least 19 people were unaccounted for, but Yu said only two, both security camera operators, were confirmed to have been trapped in the hotel.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the gathering would be similar to the so-called "Track 2" dialogue that has involved North Korean officials and former U.S. officials and experts. It gave no

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Coyote captured after standoff outside jail

**VA** ROANOKE — Authorities in Virginia engaged in a two-hour standoff outside a city jail. Their foe? A coyote.

Ricky Clemons, with Roanoke's Solid Waste Management department, told The Roanoke Times he encountered the full-grown coyote crouched near a recycling bin in the shade of the jail and state courthouse buildings Friday morning. He said the coyote snarled, but didn't run.

Authorities eventually used a tranquilizer dart to take the animal from the scene. While all humans escaped unscathed, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Conservation Police Officer Shannon Smith said the animal showed signs of being sick and would be euthanized.

## Woman accused of threat to son's school

**NC** HIDDENITE — Authorities said a North Carolina woman threatened to bomb her son's school because she was upset that he was being punished.

Alexander County Sheriff Chris Bowman told WBTV-TV that Barbara Elizabeth Sherrill, 29, made threats about placing bombs at East Alexander Middle School. Sherrill's son reportedly got into an altercation and was being disciplined by school officials.

Sherrill told others about the bombs and said law enforcement "better hope they find them before they go off." A statement from authorities says no threats were found after the school was searched.

The Lenoir woman was charged with felony false report of mass violence on education property.

## Police: Man took taxi to from bank robbery

**IN** EVANSVILLE — Police say a 19-year-old Indiana man took a cab to and from a bank robbery and that he paid the driver with some of his stolen cash.

Derrick Faria was arrested less than an hour after Thursday's robbery of a Fifth Third Bank branch in Evansville. The Evansville Courier & Press reported that Faria reportedly passed a teller a note demanding money, but that he didn't show a weapon.

Faria was being held at the Vanderburgh County Jail on preliminary charges of robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## More dogs found with animal cruelty suspect

**MI** ROME TOWNSHIP — A woman accused of animal cruelty after more than 200 animals were removed from her southern Michigan property was arrested after authorities say they found additional neglected animals.

Sharon Kay Evans, of Lenawee County's Rome Township, was arrested Friday on suspicion of violating an order not to possess

## THE CENSUS

# \$5M

The amount a Cleveland restaurant says someone won in a weekly raffle that was intended to draw business but ended up lasting nearly a year as the jackpot climbed. The crowd at Grayton Road Tavern hooted and hollered Wednesday when the latest entry drawn in the Queen of Hearts game picked the right number. WJW-TV reported the winner is a man from Hinckley, Ohio, who opted to remain anonymous for now.



ELIAS FUNEZ, THE (GRASS VALLEY, CALIF.) UNION/AP

## A game fit for a king

Dressed as royalty, King Steele Witchek, left, challenges Seven Hills Middle School teacher Paul Gross during the Tournament of Games portion of the 28th annual Medieval Feast at the Miners Foundry Cultural Center in Nevada City, Calif., on Thursday.

animals. Sheriff's officials said they acted on tips that Evans had dogs and recovered more than a dozen after obtaining a search warrant.

Earlier this year, authorities removed roughly 200 dogs, 32 horses, five cats, two peacocks and a donkey from the property. A no guilty plea was entered for her in January on a charge of felon animal cruelty.

## Man queried in goat's death barred from farm

**ME** SCARBOROUGH — A man questioned in the death of a pregnant goat killed with a crossbow has been barred from the Maine farm where the animal was found.

The Portland Press Herald reported that a judge issued a protective order for the owner of Smiling Hill Farm against Daniel Arnold, 40.

Police investigating the goat's death arrested Arnold last month on suspicion of possessing a crossbow in violation of a previous probation order. He has not been charged with killing the animal.

Investigators said he was seen

near the farm on Feb. 17, the night before the goat was found dead. Police said he has denied shooting the animal.

## Teddy bear with toy gun sparks anxiety in town

**NM** SOCORRO — A giant stuffed teddy bear sitting on a park bench holding a toy gun near an elementary school sparked anxiety in one New Mexico town.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported the teddy bear was spotted Tuesday in Socorro, but police said no laws were broken.

Socorro Police Chief Mike Winders said police investigated the matter and there was no specific threat attached.

No arrests were made.

## Veteran inaccurately declared dead

**NC** FAYETTEVILLE — Federal officials have discovered a North Carolina veteran isn't dead yet.

The Fayetteville Observer reported that Charles Covell, 81, of Fayetteville, was surprised to

learn that he had been declared dead by the Veterans Affairs Department last month.

Covell's wife realized something was wrong when a monthly disability payment was not deposited into their account. They learned a death certificate for a Charles Covell was filed in January.

Covell spent 12 years in the Army, serving with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg.

A spokeswoman from U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson's office said Tuesday the VA said the mistake had been corrected.

## Warrant: Man says toy gun used in carjackings

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — An 18-year-old man who is accused of using a toy gun in several armed carjackings in Louisiana has been arrested.

NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reported that New Orleans police arrested Don Johnson on March 8 after officers said they saw him driving a car that was stolen three days earlier in an armed carjacking.

Johnson's arrest warrant states that he confessed to three armed carjackings along with other robberies.

According to the arrest warrant, Johnson said he did not use a real gun in any of the robberies, but rather a toy gun that he'd painted black so that it would appear real. Johnson was booked on several charges that include armed robbery and carjacking.

## Police say woman hit husband with cans

**OR** LAKESIDE — Authorities arrested an Oregon woman accused of assaulting her husband with canned goods.

The Coos Bay World reported that sheriff's deputies responding to a report of domestic violence found evidence that Katherine Lavigne, 53, of Lakeside beat her husband with a can of tomato sauce and threw other cans at him.

Lavigne was booked into jail on an assault charge. The Coos County Sheriff's Office says deputies also found methamphetamine in her possession, and a drug charge is pending.

From wire reports

# FACES

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

**S**ean Bean is as famous for his rugged looks and thick northern British accent as the many creative ways in which he dies on screen.

He's been stabbed, shot, chased off a cliff, tossed off a satellite dish, beheaded, exploded, killed by arrows, and drawn and quartered in everything from the Bond movie "Goldeneye" to "Game of Thrones" and "The Lord of the Rings."

For his new series, the Yorkshire-bred actor shockingly makes it to the end of the season. In "The Oath," on Crackle, Bean plays the imprisoned patriarch of a gang of rogue cops. It's a brooding, dark and violent look at how corrosive corruption can be.

Bean, 58, talked with The Associated Press about the new series, his many deaths and why he's pleased that he's left his mark on "Game of Thrones" long after losing his head.

**Associated Press:** This is another tightly wound, sinister character. What attracts you to them?

**Sean Bean:** I guess when your character is in darkness or is very cerebral and contained, you don't have to learn as many lines. (Laughs.) You just do it with facial expression. They do actually tend to be men-of-not-many-words sort of characters.

I quite like that. I don't like saying too much. I don't like too much repetition.

The series is shot in Puerto Rico and had to contend with Hurricane Maria in September. The cast and crew returned to finish filming after that monster storm. Was it hard?

I was there for the first few weeks. I'd finished my scenes by, I suppose, July, something like that. I'd been gone about three weeks when I started picking it up on the news report. It was pretty bad, you know. I know it gets storms in that part of the world but I never thought it would be as bad as that. I thought about the people there who welcomed us with open arms. They're very friendly and hardworking people and it was just a shock to think that they were there and the power was out.

**Is there a second season in the works and are you a part of it?**

Well, I don't die in it. Well, maybe I shouldn't tell you. You know, everyone expects me to die, don't they? I think there's a lot of it. I think they're seeing how it goes down and see what the reaction is.

**Can we talk about your many deaths? Does it affect your choices?**

I don't mind. I remember Sean Connery once said that he doesn't like dying in films.



STEVE DIETL/Crackle via AP

**Sean Bean, left, and Ryan Kwanten star in the Crackle original series "The Oath." Bean has also appeared — and died — in the film "The Lord of the Rings" and the television series "Game of Thrones."**

## 'It's a surprise when I survive'

**Sean Bean on his many deaths and 'Game of Thrones' legacy**

He doesn't take jobs on where he dies in films. He doesn't think it's a good vibe or good karma. So I don't know where that leaves me. I can understand that, but I've done it so many times. It's not intentional, but I know I'm high up in the death table. But they've all been quite memorable. It's a surprise when I survive. A quite nice surprise for me and, hopefully, for the audience as you always think I'm going to die.

**Actually, we're a little shocked you managed to survive through the first season of "The Oath."**

There was talk about me dying in it but they liked what they saw, what I was doing, and I think they decided to extend his life

a bit more.

**Can we talk about your accent? It seems like many directors leave you alone.**

Unless there's a reason to change it, I usually use how I speak now. Not too broad. If I spoke really broad Yorkshire, people might not understand what I'm saying. I kind of tone it down. It suits the characters that I play, many of them anyway. Certainly it suited Ned Stark. We did the read-through and the producers and directors and writers said, 'Just talk like that, Sean. What do you think?' I said, 'Yeah, all right. Good with me.' But then everybody who came after was part of the Stark family who had to adopt a Yorkshire accent.

**Speaking of "Game of Thrones," we know Stark had a swift and grisly end. But have you noticed that your story line is still the dominant one? Does that please you?**

I'm glad they remember me and am mentioned because it leaves a legacy. It's wonderful to be still mentioned because the character made such a big impact in the first season. He was one of a very few good men. They're all such backstabbers; poisonous people. He kind of stood out as a man with principles and morals and a good heart. A strong, confident man. That's probably one of the reasons he didn't survive. He wasn't devilish enough.

## Rihanna responds to ad asking if you'd rather slap her or punch Chris Brown: 'Shame on you'

From wire reports

Rihanna just called out Snapchat for an insensitive ad that brought "shame" to survivors and victims of domestic violence.

The 30-year-old singer, who was physically assaulted by ex Chris Brown in 2009, shared a statement to her Instagram account after Snapchat posted a controversial ad that asked if users would rather "Slap Rihanna" or "Punch Chris Brown."

"I'm just trying to figure out what the point was with this mess! I'd love to call it ignorance, but I know you ain't that dumb," she wrote. "You spent money to animate something that would intentionally bring shame to DV (domestic violence) victims and make a joke of it!!!"

Snapchat said in a statement Wednesday the ad was reviewed and approved "in error" and was

immediately removed once the company became aware the ad was circulating.

"We are sorry this happened," Snapchat said in a statement, but Rihanna said she wasn't accepting the "app-ology."

"This isn't about my personal feelings ... but all the women, children and men that have been victims of DV in the past and especially the ones who haven't made it out ... you let us down! Shame on you," she wrote.

### Danny Boyle says he's working on script

Danny Boyle says he's working on the script for the next James Bond movie.

The British director has been rumored to be at the top of the list to direct the 25th film in the spy action franchise. He says he's collaborating with John Hodge, who

wrote Boyle's "Trainspotting." Boyle says two are "working on a script at the moment." He says he can't offer more details.

MGM, which produces James Bond films, has not confirmed who will direct the next installment.

Boyle made the comments Wednesday.

### Sheeran, Gaga, more to cover Elton John

Elton John's songs will be re-worked by top artists including Ed Sheeran, Lady Gaga, Willie Nelson and Chris Stapleton.

John announced March 15 the April 6 release of two albums. "Revamp" will include covers by Mary J. Blige to Miley Cyrus. Miranda Lambert and Dolly Parton will appear on the country album "Restoration."

Pink and Logic will team up for

"Bennie and the Jets," and Florence + the Machine take on "Tiny Dancer." Other acts on "Revamp" include Sam Smith, Coldplay, The Killers, Mumford and Sons, Queen, Tip, Demi Lovato, Queens of the Stone Age and Alessia Cara.

"Restoration" features artists including Rosanne Cash, Don Henley, Maren Morris, Kacey Musgraves and Brothers Osborne.

### Azealia Banks lashes out while leaving court

Short-fused rapper Banks failed to show proof she finished six hours of anger management over the past year, dooming her opportunity to get her club bouncer biting case reduced to a violation on March 15.

The performer brought paperwork that said she was two hours shy of the requirement of

her Manhattan Criminal Court plea deal. That led prosecutors to object to her misdemeanor being dismissed in favor of a violation. Judge Angela Badamo said Banks has to come back April 3 for prosecutors to sort out the discrepancy. Banks' lawyer Jess Berkowitz said he believed she actually was in compliance.

Banks' infamous temper flared as she left the courthouse. She insulted reporters and photographers following her to the street.

### Other news

■ Comedian Wanda Sykes will host the 29th GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles on April 12.

■ Queen Elizabeth II has given her formal consent to the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The prince and the American actress are to marry May 19.

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# EU reveals which US products may face tariffs

By LORNE COOK  
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Thursday published a list of U.S. products it plans to introduce duties on if the 28-nation bloc is not exempted from President Donald Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs.

The list contains dozens of products including breakfast foods, kitchenware, clothing and footwear, washing machines, textiles, whiskey, motorcycles, boats and batteries.

They are worth around 2.8 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) in trade annually, but the list could grow to the equivalent of 6.4 billion euros once the full extent of the impact of U.S. tariffs is known.

The EU's executive commission, which negotiates trade matters on behalf of member countries, gave European industry stakeholders 10 days to object if they fear that any products targeted for "rebalancing" tariffs would hurt their business.

Trump announced that he was imposing tariffs of 25 percent on

imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum. He temporarily exempted big steel producers Canada and Mexico — provided they agree to renegotiate a North American trade deal to his satisfaction.

He said other countries could be spared as well if they can convince Washington that their exports don't threaten American industry. The tariffs are set to enter force this month.

The EU believes it too should be exempted and rejects Trump's assertion that the tariffs are needed

for national security and are simply protectionist measures. Most EU countries are U.S. allies in the world's biggest security organization, NATO.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom will hold talks this week with U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

Malmstrom met in Brussels March 10 with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to discuss the tariffs and the exemption procedures. She said she got "no immediate clarity on the

exact U.S. procedure."

That weekend, Trump argued that the U.S. has been abused economically by the EU, saying they were "wonderful countries who treat the U.S. very badly on trade."

The EU insists that it is committed to open, global trade and that Trump's tariffs are a protective measure to prop up U.S. industry which could undermine the global trading system. The bloc says a glut on steel markets is to blame.

## US probes deaths caused by airbag failures in Hyundai, Kia cars

By TOM KRISHER  
Associated Press

DETROIT — Air bags in some Hyundai and Kia cars failed to inflate in crashes, and four people are dead. Now the U.S. government's road safety agency wants to know why.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it's investigating problems that affect an estimated 425,000 cars made by the Korean automakers. The agency also is looking into whether the same problem could happen in vehicles made by other companies.

In documents posted on its website Saturday, the safety agency says the probe covers 2011 Hyundai Sonata midsize cars and 2012 and 2013 Kia Forte compacts. The agency says it has reports of six front-end crashes with significant damage to the cars. Four people died, and six were injured.

The problem has been traced to electrical circuit shorts in air bag control computers made by parts supplier ZF-TRW. The NHTSA now wants to know if other automakers used the same computer.

On Feb. 27, Hyundai recalled nearly 155,000 Sonatas due to air bag failures, which the company blamed on the short circuits. Hyundai's sister automaker Kia, which sells similar vehicles, has yet to issue a recall.

In a statement Saturday, Kia said it has not

confirmed any air bag nondeployments in its 2002-13 Kia Forte models arising from "the potential chip issue." The company said it will work with NHTSA investigators.

"Kia will act promptly to conduct a safety recall if it determines that a recall would be appropriate," the company said.

A consumer complaint cited in the NHTSA's investigation documents said Kia was informed of a crash near Oakland in which air bags failed to deploy, and a passenger was killed.

In October 2015, the complainant told the NHTSA that a 2012 Forte was involved in a serious front-end crash that occurred in July 2013. A passenger was killed, and the driver was injured. According to the complaint, Kia was notified, the air bag computer was tested, and it was "found not to be working."

Hyundai spokesman Jim Trainor said the problem occurred in rare high-speed head-on collisions that were offset from the center of the vehicles. "It's very unusual to have that kind of collision," he said Saturday.

Dealers will consider offering loaner cars to owners until the problem can be repaired, he said.

"We certainly would do everything we can to help our customers," Trainor said.

Hyundai said in a statement that the air bag control circuitry was damaged in three crashes, and a fourth crash is under investigation.

ZF-TRW said in a statement that it is prevented by confidentiality agreements from identifying other automakers who bought its air bag control computers. The company said it is working with customers and supports the NHTSA investigation.

According to the NHTSA, Hyundai investigated and found the problem was "electrical overstress" in the computers. The company didn't have a fix developed at the time but said it was investigating the problem with ZF-TRW. Hyundai does not yet have a fix for the problem but said it expects the Sonata recall to start April 20. The problem also can stop the seat belts from tightening before a crash.

In the documents, the NHTSA said it understands that the Kia Fortes under investigation use similar air bag control computers made by ZF-TRW. The agency noted a 2016 recall involving more than 1.4 million Fiat Chrysler cars and SUVs that had a similar problem causing the air bags not to deploy. Agency documents show those vehicles had air bag computers made by ZF-TRW.

The agency says four crashes occurred in Sonatas and two happened in Fortes. One Forte crash happened in Canada. All six crashes were reported to the NHTSA between 2012 and 2017, but it was unclear when they occurred.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 19)	\$1,263
Dollar buys (March 19)	€0.7913
British pound	1.3443
Chinese (Renminbi)	0.13
Japanese yen (March 19)	103.00
South Korean won (March 19)	1,044.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1,393.30
Chinese (Renminbi)	0.13
China (Yuan)	6,324.9
Denmark (Krone)	6,063.9
Egypt (Pound)	17,616.5
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1,288.41
Hungary (Forint)	7,842.8
India (Rupee)	253.16
Japan (Yen)	106.06
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3001
Norway (Krone)	7,778.8
Philippines (Peso)	51.98
Poland (Zloty)	3.43
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3,759.0
South Korea (Won)	1,068.03
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9521
Turkey (Lira)	1.17
Turkey (New Lira)	3,909.5

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Commercial rates are those available to the general public. For example, the commercial rate for the British pound is \$1.3443 (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility for the military rate.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	1.42
3-month bill	1.14
30-year bond	3.08

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### MONDAY IN EUROPE



#### TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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**OPINION**

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher

Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
 Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

**EDITORIAL**

Terry Leonard, Editor  
 tleard@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 reid@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
 croley.tina@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
 mooresean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

**BUREAU STAFF**
**Europe/Mideast**

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
 slavin.erik@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

**Pacific**

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com

+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

**Washington**

Jessica Chisholm, Washington Bureau Chief  
 chisholm.jessica@stripes.com

+1(202)761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News

bowers.brian@stripes.com

**CIRCULATION**
**Mideast**

Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9150; DSN (314)583.9150

**Europe**

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com

+49(0)631.3615.9111; DSN (314)583.9111

**Pacific**

Mari Mori, customercare@stripes.com

+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

**CONTACT US**
**Washington**

tel. (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;

529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC

20045-1301

**Reader letters**

letters@stripes.com

**Additional contacts**

stripes.com/contactus

**OMBUDSMAN**

Tobias Naegle

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By ANNE APPLEBAUM  
*The Washington Post*

**L**ondongrad is the nickname, not entirely affectionate, that wealthy Russians have bestowed upon Britain's capital. The term doesn't just designate a physical place, though many Russians do indeed live there. Londongrad is more properly a state of mind — encompassing not only the nonresident owners of large houses in Kensington but also the British institutions, banks, law firms, accountants, private schools, art galleries and even the Conservative Party fundraisers that have gone out of their way to accommodate them.

Londongrad can be a place of bizarre contrasts. A few years ago, I found myself standing on the sideline of a school's rugby pitch, watching small boys tackle one another in the mud. All around me were the green fields of England; cows were grazing in the middle distance. Huddled on the sidelines, a group of men — presumably parents of some of the small boys — were arguing loudly, in Russian, about large sums of money. Equally weird was a walk with friends in rural Hampshire, past the gates of a vast estate. Although registered to a company called Skymnist Holdings, the house was in fact owned by Elena Baturina, a Russian business executive who became enormously rich while her husband, Yuri Luzhkov, was the mayor of Moscow. The locals knew the owner's identity because they had seen Luzhkov at the pub.

These incongruities were produced by a tacit deal: For two decades, the British establishment has agreed not to think too hard about where the Russians got their money

— how cash was stolen from the state, recycled in the West, then used to help bring Vladimir Putin and his ex-KGB colleagues to power. In return, the Russians spent a lot of that money in Britain, to the benefit of the British.

The relationship has, at times, been extraordinarily complicit. There was the 2006 London flotation of Rosneft, the oil company created from the stolen assets of another oil company, whose owner had been arrested and sent to prison in Siberia. The prospectus did actually warn potential purchasers of the risks: "Crime and corruption could create a difficult business climate in Russia." But the sale went forward, reaped rewards for those who arranged it and established a principle: Stolen goods can become legal as long as the London financial establishment approves.

Now the relationship is at a low point. The British were shocked — or should I say "shocked, shocked" — to discover that Russian operatives treat all of Britain like Londongrad. For a second time, they appear to have used a dangerous chemical agent in an attempt to murder one of their compatriots on British soil. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Theresa May eloquently condemned Russia for its use of a "military-grade nerve agent," declared she would expel 23 Russian diplomats and charged that the Russian government has "demonstrated complete disdain for the gravity of these events."

But that means she doesn't understand the profundity of the problem — that the Russian government treats Britain with disdain because the Russian government thinks it has bought the British elite. Worse than that, it may be right. On the day of May's speech, Gazprom, the state-con-

trolled energy company that is the source of wealth for so many of Russia's leaders, issued an eight-year, nearly \$1 billion eurobond. The Russian Embassy sent out a tweet announcing that the Gazprom sale was oversubscribed and added a punchline: "Business as usual?" On Friday, the Russian government itself sold \$7 billion worth of euros bonds.

That same afternoon, London police officials opened another murder investigation into the death of another Russian, this time a businessman and government critic. It is being reported that investigators have detected signs he may have been strangled.

On Sunday in Moscow, the regime reaffirmed its power, holding an election which exit polls late in the day said was won by Putin. All those events are connected. Our institutions, our bank, our tax havens have helped create this profoundly cynical regime in Moscow, one with no regard for our laws or political traditions. And we are still to see it.

In her parliamentary statement, the prime minister did leave open the possibility of harsher financial sanctions. But the real question for Britain — as well as France, Germany and the United States — is whether we are willing to let the financial relationship altogether.

We could outlaw tax havens in the Virgin Islands as well as in Delaware and Nevada; we could make it impossible to buy property anonymously; we could ban Russian companies with dubious origins from our stock exchanges. But that would cost our own financiers and real estate agents, disrupt the discreet flow of cash into the coffers of political parties, deprive the art market of its biggest investors. Does May have the nerve to do that? Do any of us?

## This 'year of the woman' feels different than '92

By KAREN TUMULTY  
*The Washington Post*

**T**he video begins with Democratic congressional candidate Sol Flores standing in her childhood bedroom in Chicago, recalling happy times when she decorated it with unicorns and rainbows and posters of her boy-band crushes.

Then Flores' narration takes a detour, into a dark family secret: "There was a man that was living with us that would come into my bedroom when I was asleep."

A convergence of the #MeToo movement and the political activism that ignited after President Donald Trump's election has inspired what appears to be a record number of women running for office up and down the ballot this year. These are not just career politicians climbing the next step on the ladder but newly energized activists who say running for office never occurred to them until the last election.

And here is what is even more surprising about this crop of female candidates: Many are speaking openly about painful, personal experiences with sexual abuse and harassment.

In 1992, the last time there was talk of an election being a "year of the woman," it was in large measure because the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas brought sexual harassment to the forefront. Back then, though, it was still taboo for female candidates to talk about their own encounters with the problem.

I remember the sense everyone felt in 1992 that nothing would ever be the same for women, that their voices would only grow stronger and louder. But joining the club in those days meant living by its rules. This time feels different. Now, the experience-

rience of suffering sexual harassment assault has been transformed into a way to connect, particularly for the Democratic contenders who have become the vanguard of the resistance movement. What once was a private shame is now a selling point.

Flores, the founder of a Chicago nonprofit that serves homeless youth, said that after she went public with her story of being molested as a child, she heard from Sara Freeman, a Democratic Minnesota state house contender who now speaks openly about her recovery from being raped at gunpoint two decades ago.

Democrat Mary Barzee Flores, a former circuit court judge running for Congress in Florida, has talked of being groped by the night manager of a Pizza Hut where she worked when she was a teenager. As a lawyer, Flores said, she encountered "a judge who made a crack about my looks on my very first day in court."

In Maryland, Democratic state Sen. Cheryl Kagan this month accused lobbyist Gil Genn of running his hand down her back and onto her buttocks in a crowded pub. Now, the two are arguing over whether the brief physical contact revealed by security camera footage of the event constitutes inappropriate conduct. The tape does appear to show that his initial insistence that he had not touched her at all was false.

Previous generations of female politicians kept these kinds of experiences to themselves.

"Absolutely no one would dare do a #MeToo then, although we talked in private about who to watch out for and never get in an elevator with," recalled former Democratic Rep. Pat Schroder, of Colorado, who ran briefly for her party's 1988 presidential nomination and who was not known for his personal life.

being timid. "They felt vulnerable, and if they talked about it, they became even more vulnerable."

That remained true even in the explosion of female candidates after the Thomas hearings. "Part of that was we all saw how Anita Hill was treated" by the all-white, all-male Senate Judiciary Committee, Schroder said. "They just dumped all over her and got away with it. We all internalized it."

Not anymore.

No one would argue that these kinds of life experiences, by themselves, qualify anyone for public office. And there is even a danger that they will become a distraction from other issues.

"I've sort of been pigeonholed into one issue. I'm just the #MeToo candidate," complained Freeman, a former investment banker who says her top priority if elected would be improving Minnesota's public schools.

But, she adds, at a moment of awakened sensitivity to sexual transgressions, "these conversations are just too important not to be happening."

There is no small irony in the fact that all of this, while long overdue, might not be happening had the nation elected its first female president in 2016.

Instead, a man credibly accused of sexual misconduct by more than a dozen women sat in the Oval Office.

The old feminist mantra had it that the personal is political. In the #MeToo era, that connection is being forced more directly than ever, one story at a time. But while laying bare what was once kept secret may ultimately produce a healthier culture in politics, what voters will want to know is how all of this is going to change their lives.

## OPINION

## So much of consoling is in what isn't said

By HANNAH ROSE

*Special to The Baltimore Sun*

**Y**oung adults overdosing from heroin is not a new phenomenon; it has existed for decades. The recent influx of fentanyl-faced heroin, however, has been leading to a massive increase in the frequency of overdoses. The last two years of my life have been riddled with the deaths of friends.

In January of 2017, my boyfriend's best friend passed away from an overdose. I remember racking my brain every night to figure out how I could take away his pain — what I could say to make it better, what I could say to ease the grief.

I have read time and again in spiritual or wellness literature about empathy being a process that involves putting ourselves in the other person's shoes and allowing ourselves to connect with the thing in us that understands their pain. I have constructed lectures around healthy communication and the empathetic process, yet it was incredibly difficult.

I felt powerless over someone else's pain and like I didn't have a purpose if I couldn't make them feel better at that moment. I felt frustrated at not knowing that perfect thing to say.

Then it occurred to me: What if there

is nothing we could possibly say to make their pain go away? What if we miss our opportunities for genuine empathy by trying to "fix" someone else's emotional pain or quicken the grieving process?

"Rarely can a response make something better; what makes something better is connection," said Brene Brown, a research professor at the University of Houston who studies empathy.

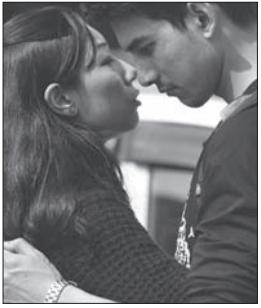
All I needed to do was show up and listen — and become comfortable with the silence of not being able to fully understand his pain in that moment.

If you love someone who is currently in emotional pain or grieving, it's natural to want to make their pain go away. But you cannot take their process away from them. And if you could, it would be a disservice to that person and their emotional growth.

We grow through pain. We cultivate resilience through walking directly into the pain and coming out on the other side.

So, what if instead of avoiding someone because you know you can't "make it better" or "say the right thing," you simply show up and hold space for their emotional experience?

I'll never forget when a friend of mine was grieving because his brother had just overdosed and died. I was a few days into a new job at a hospital, the same one where his brother had been on life support.



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/AP

**Family members of a passenger of a plane crash console each other outside a hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Tuesday.**

I reached out to this friend and met him outside while he smoked a cigarette. I stood with him, not saying a word, while he spoke about his brother, cried and eventually stood in silence himself.

The silence contained more emotion and

meaning than anything I could have possibly said to him. The reality is that I had not experienced the same amount of pain, and that was OK. I chose to throw away my arsenal of spiritual and positive quotes about "time healing all wounds" and his brother being "in a better place now" and the rest of those things we say just to say in the wake of grief.

I don't know if his brother is in a better place.

I don't think his death was "supposed" to happen.

And I know that if I was grieving, those would be the last things I wanted to hear.

It's OK to not know.

This friend thanked me for reaching out and standing with him outside of the hospital, remarking that many of his friends hadn't contacted him because they didn't know what to say.

I understand that now.

Because there is nothing to say.

But we should still show up.

So if you love someone who is grieving, know that you are doing everything you can do by simply being there. By listening, holding space, and allowing yourself to be silent with vulnerability between you.

It will make a difference.

It has made a difference to me.

Hannah Rose is a clinical mental health counselor.

## New task force eyed for merging exchanges, DeCA

By TOM PHILPOTT

*Special to Stars and Stripes*

**T**he three military exchange services and the Defense Commissary Agency would be merged into a single resale enterprise under a proposal backed by John H. Gibbs II, the Defense Department's new chief management officer, who has been tasked to make DOD business operations more efficient. Gibbs and his team work with reviewing military community services, base stores, recreation services, family support services and base schools — have drafted a memorandum, apparently for signature by Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan, that would order extensive streamlining.

If and when signed, the memo would have the Department of Defense under President Donald Trump reconsider, and likely reverse, an Obama administration decision of two years ago not to consolidate DeCA with Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the exchange services run by the Navy and Marine Corps.

"Because of their different approaches to fulfilling their specific missions and delivering their respective benefits, the creation of a single resale entity through consolidation is not recommended," DOD officials wrote in a May 2016 report to Congress on prospects for operating commissaries without cost to taxpayers.

"It is more appropriate to focus on the short-term goal of achieving greater efficiency in the operation of commissaries and exchanges, and to defer consideration of the feasibility of any merger until these issues have been effectively addressed."

This administration, however, isn't waiting. The departments of Army, Navy and Air Force were given only a few days in mid-March to share their views on the consolidation for resale operations presented in the draft memorandum.

Sources said the services are concerned about the timing of a complex consolidation, given current challenges transforming DeCA into an exchange-like profitable

## MILITARY UPDATE

enterprise, using variable pricing of items by region and introducing higher margin DeCA brands. Brokers and manufacturers supporting base stores say the changes are aggravating an already sharp decline in commissary sales.

Exchange store operators see their own patron traffic as linked to base grocery stores, so as commissary sales fall so too do sales at exchanges, gas stations and other on-base retailers. Declining exchange sales mean lower profits, or "dividends," which the services rely on to fund on-base MWR or morale, welfare and recreation activities.

A Defense Department spokesman said no official could be made available to discuss the draft memo or concepts it embraces for store system consolidation for at least a few more weeks. Officials wouldn't even provide written answers to questions, suggesting the timed wasn't right.

Gibson became the DOD's chief management officer Feb. 1. He told the Senate Budget Committee the department had formed nine project teams to draft recommendations to reform business operations to achieve near-term efficiencies.

Stacey Kiley, a Senior Executive Service employee who served on the Defense Resale Business Optimization Board, has led the team tasked with reviewing community services. The draft memo explains that, after receiving team briefings, the department's Reform Management Group, which Gibson leads, "acknowledged that the defense resale enterprise, in particular, has been studied too much" without recommendations being implemented. As a result, military stores now suffer from "the same industry, generation and demographic trends negatively impacting private sector grocery and retail companies."

The team proposes that phased consolidation of DeCA and exchange services offers "the greatest potential to achieve

the economies and efficiencies necessary for the survivability of the defense resale enterprise."

The draft memo acknowledges that current law prohibits consolidating the commissary system with the exchanges so legislative relief would be sought "as soon as practicable." Meanwhile, the team is to "assemble a cross-functional task force" no later than May 1, 2018, and to identify by April 15 a director to manage its work. This task force is to conduct "due diligence, assess the business case and develop integration plans" for DeCA and exchange services by Oct. 31.

The task force is to brief the Reform Management Group "upon business case completion." If it confirms the team's approach, "consolidation shall be executed immediately by the task force director" who will serve "as the new organization's Executive Director, exercising authority, direction and control, until the permanent position is advertised and filled."

In other words, said one critic who reviewed the memo, the person leading the task force becomes director of the organization it proposes to create — if the task force makes the appropriate business case to justify it.

"This thing is toxic. It's putting the cart before the horse," the official said.

Even if the business case for consolidating systems is not confirmed, military resale "will benefit from the standardization of its back-office processes and systems," the draft memo says. "Therefore, in parallel with its other work, the task force shall begin standardizing those processes" beginning with financial management and accounting processes. To ensure proper focus on standardization, the draft memo says on the date it is signed, store systems are to freeze work on modernizing information technology and suspend executive hiring.

The success of this reform requires complete faith and active support of our decisions," the memo concludes. "Therefore, all must know and believe that our intentions are to make these community

services better for our members and their families, improve our support to commanders, be exceptional stewards of our appropriated funds and exhibit fiduciary responsibility" over resale profits.

One exchange official grumbled that this last paragraph was particularly odd, a warning perhaps not to make familiar arguments to Congress, patrons or other stakeholders for protecting the status quo.

Consolidation of commissaries and exchange services has been studied for decades, with 11 major reports produced just since 1989. Congress finally agreed in 2016 to give DOD officials sweeping new authorities to transform commissaries into more business-like operations and to reduce DeCA's reliance on taxpayer funding, which last year and this still stood at \$1.3 billion annually.

In the first year of transformation, however, commissary sales continued a five-year decline. Even if, arguably, the rate of decline has slowed, it remains a dangerous trend that had put the entire military resale system in jeopardy.

Congressional committees that oversee military resale are monitoring sales closely. Two congressional staffers said they haven't seen the DOD's new ideas on consolidating systems but noted any merging would require changes to law.

They added that Congress allowed commissary reforms only on condition that savings to patrons be maintained and that revenues from exchange operations to support on-base morale, welfare and recreation activities not be reduced.

Those are priorities set in law, they added. That means that while Congress encourages efficient on-base store operations, current law requires that reforms be rolled back if the value of the shopping benefit can't be preserved for patrons or if exchange profits, so critical to on-base quality of life, fall victim to the changes.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centreville, VA 20120; email [milupdate@af.mil](mailto:milupdate@af.mil); Twitter: [@Military\\_Update](https://twitter.com/Military_Update).

Frazz



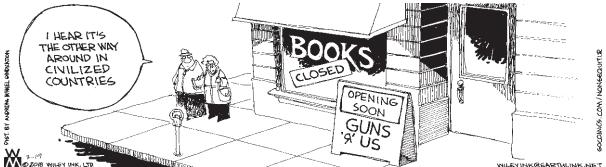
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



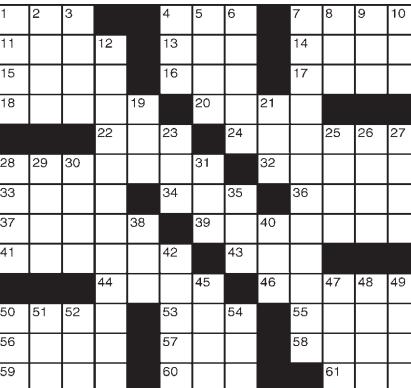
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- 1 Male turkey  
4 Existed  
7 Tiny branch  
11 Acknowledge  
13 List-ending abbr.  
14 Basketball target  
15 Nevada city  
16 Fluffy scarf  
17 Billions of years  
18 Bull's sound  
20 Oxen's burden  
22 Sportage maker  
24 Excessively proper  
28 Solar event  
32 Chalkboard  
33 Apollo 11 destination  
34 Day divs.  
36 Sketch  
37 Grammarian's concern  
39 Chess ploys  
41 Moves like a crab  
43 Tee, today  
44 Radius neighbor  
46 Perfectly timed  
50 Utah national park  
53 Diamond arbiter  
55 Corn castoffs  
56 Apple computer  
57 For shame!"  
58 Dickens' Uriah  
59 Ancient invader

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	N	U	S	B	E	T	A	S
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O	C	U	L	A	R	S	P	A	T
S	A	L	N	I	N	E	S	U	E
A	M	E	S	F	O	E	G	A	T
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3-19

## CRYPTOQUIP

J Q V F R V Z   R I N H Q G R W   U G   U X O  
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 S B   S N N V S X Z X T O   B Y X T O Z :  
 E Q V N Q V S B R   V S B R V Z .  
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: SOME ROUND OBJECTS THAT HAD BEEN SHAPED AND PAINTED TO LOOK JUST LIKE STONES: SHAM ROCKS.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R

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Kristi Kimmel [kimmel.kristi@stripes.com](mailto:kimmel.kristi@stripes.com)  
+49(0)631-3615.9013 DSN 314.583.9013

**Circulation**

Van Rowell [rowell.van@stripes.com](mailto:rowell.van@stripes.com)  
+49(0)631-3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111

**Reader Letters**

[letters@stripes.com](mailto:letters@stripes.com)

**MIDDLE EAST**

Kristi Kimmel [kimmel.kristi@stripes.com](mailto:kimmel.kristi@stripes.com)  
+49(0)631-3615.9013 DSN 314.583.9013

Robert Reimann [reimann.robert@stripes.com](mailto:reimann.robert@stripes.com)  
+49(0)631-3615.9100 DSN 314.583.9100

[letters@stripes.com](mailto:letters@stripes.com)

**PACIFIC**

Yuko Saito [saito.yuko@stripes.com](mailto:saito.yuko@stripes.com)  
(81-3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

Mari Matsumoto [SSPcirculation@stripes.com](mailto:SSPcirculation@stripes.com)  
+81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171  
[letters@stripes.com](mailto:letters@stripes.com)

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**Announcements 040****SCAM FADS**

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Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

■ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using payroll.

■ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

**Automotive 140****SELLER BEWARE**

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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## SCOREBOARD

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myafn.net



## Auto racing

## Roseanne 300

NASCAR Xfinity Series

Saturday

At Auto Club Speedway

Fontana, Calif.

Lap length: 2.00 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (6) Joey Logano, Ford, 150 laps, 0

rating, 0.00

2. (6) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

50.

3. (11) Elliott Sadler, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

48.

4. (19) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

0.

5. (5) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

39.

6. (4) Cole Custer, Ford, 150, 0, 44.

7. (16) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 150,

45.

8. (20) Matt Tifft, Toyota, 150, 0, 31.

9. (10) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 150,

0, 29.

10. (18) Ryan Truex, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

26.

11. (9) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 150, 0,

24.

12. (Kaz Grala, Ford, 150, 0, 23,

Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet,

150, 0, 22).

13. (25) Jeremy Gaves, Chevrolet,

150, 0, 23.

14. (23) Joey Gase, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

21.

15. (7) Ryan Reed, Ford, 150, 0, 20.

16. (28) Michael Annett, Chevrolet,

150, 0, 20.

17. (21) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

18.

18. (20) Ryan Sieg, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

17.

19. (21) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 150,

0, 29.

20. (26) B.J. McLeod, Chevrolet, 150, 0,

25.

21. (25) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet,

149, 0, 14.

22. (34) Tommy Joe Martins, Chevrolet, 149, 0, 15.

23. (27) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 148, 0,

12.

24. (36) David Starr, Chevrolet, 148, 0,

11.

25. (34) Vinnie Miller, Chevrolet, 148,

0, 10.

26. (14) Austin Cindric, Ford, 147, 0,

29.

27. (9) John Hunter Nemechek, Chevrolet,

147, 0, 12.

28. (29) Spencer Boddy, Chevrolet, 147,

0, 7.

29. (37) Stephen Leicht, Toyota, brakes,

132, 0, 2.

30. (38) Josh Bilicki, Toyota, engine,

122, 0, 5.

31. (43) Dylan Lupton, Ford, engine,

109, 0, 1.

32. (34) DJ Yelez, Chevrolet, garage, 76,

0, 3.

33. (35) Timmy Hill, Dodge, vibration,

56, 0, 2.

34. (26) Chad Finchum, Chevrolet, engine,

0, 1.

35. (27) Matt Mills, Chevrolet, accident,

29, 0, 1.

36. (33) Morgan Shepherd, Chevrolet, suspension, 22, 0.

37. (32) Jeff Green, Chevrolet, brakes,

0, 1.

38. (40) Mike Harmon, Dodge, engine,

6, 0, 1.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race: Winner,

127.27 mph.

Time of Race: 2 hours, 21 minutes, 25

seconds.

Margin of Victory: 1.429 seconds.

Caution Flags: 7 for 32 laps.

Lead Changes: 6 among 5 drivers.

Lap Leader: C.Bell 1-4; J.Logano 5,

J.Sadler 6-12; A.Cindric 13-24;

J.Lognano 25-41; R.Sieg 42-141;

J.Gase 142-150.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led,

Laps Led): Logano, 3 times for 136 laps;

C.Bell, 1 time for 3 laps; E.Sadler, 1 time

for 3 laps; J.Allgaier, 1 time for 1 lap;

R.Sieg, 1 time for 1 lap.

Wins: Logano, 1; T.Reddick, 1.

Top 10 in Points: 1. E.Sadler, 169; 2.

Tredick, 159; 3. C.Bell, 146; 4. C.Johnson,

172; 5. D.Herrmann, 149; 6. C.Custer, 144;

7. S.Gallagher, 143; 8. R.Truex, 140; 9.

B.Jones, 139; 10. M.Mills, 137.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula

A maximum of 150 points can be attained

in a race.

The formula combines the following

categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Fin-

ishes, Average Running Position While

On Track, Lap Average Speed Under

Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead

Last Finish.

## Pro soccer

## MLS

## Eastern Conference



## NBA



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Pacers' Lance Stephenson drives against the Wizards' Ramon Sessions on Saturday in Washington. The Wizards won 109-102.

## Roundup

# Wizards pull into tie with Pacers

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Bradley Beal and the Washington Wizards delivered in a big game in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Beal scored 19 points, Marcin Gortat had 18 and the Wizards beat the Pacers 109-102 on Saturday night in a possible postseason preview.

Washington (40-30) earned its second straight win to move into a tie with Indiana for fourth in the conference standings. The Wizards also claimed the first tie-breaker with the Pacers by taking two of three in the season series.

Washington went 10-for-20 from three-point range and shot 54.8 percent from the field overall. Kyle Oubre, Jr. had 16 points for the Wizards, and Markieff Morris added 15.

Reserve Lance Stephenson led Indiana with 25 points on 10-for-15 shooting. Victor Oladipo had 18 points.

**Cavaliers 114, Bulls 109:**

LeBron James scored 33 points as part of a triple-double, Jordan Clarkson had a tie-breaking four-point play with 1:27 left and visiting Cleveland beat Chicago.

James had 12 rebounds and 12 assists for his 15th triple-double of the season, and Jeff Green added 21 points. Clarkson finished with 19 points to help the Cavaliers salvage a six-game split on their season-high six-game trip.

**Warriors 124, Suns 109:**

Quinn Cook scored 16 of his career-high 28 points in a dominant third quarter for Golden State, Draymond Green narrowly

missed a triple-double and the severely depleted Warriors handed Phoenix its eighth straight loss and 23rd in 25 games.

**Rockets 107, Pelicans 101:**

James Harden had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and visiting Houston won for the 21st time in 22 games by beating New Orleans.

**Spurs 117, Timberwolves 101:**

LaMarcus Aldridge had 39 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio overcame a sluggish start at home to beat Minnesota.

**Trail Blazers 100, Pistons 87:**

Damian Lillard had 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Portland beat visiting Detroit for its 12th straight victory.

**Bucks 122, Hawks 117:**

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 12 rebounds, Khris Middleton added 23 points and host Milwaukee held on for a win over Atlanta.

**Jazz 103, Kings 97:**

Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points, and Utah beat visiting Sacramento for its ninth straight victory.

**Knicks 124, Hornets 101:**

Tim Hardaway, Jr. scored 25 points and host New York snapped a nine-game losing streak with a win over Charlotte.

**Nets 114, Mavericks 106:**

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 23 points, D'Angelo Russell had 22 and Brooklyn recovered after blowing a double-digit lead to beat visiting Dallas.

**Grizzlies 101, Nuggets 94:**

Dillon Brooks scored 24 points, Tyreke Evans added 20 and host Memphis snapped a 19-game losing streak with a victory over Denver.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	52	17	.754	—
x-Boston	47	22	.681	5
x-Philadelphia	38	31	.526	10
New York	25	45	.357	27½
Brooklyn	22	48	.314	30½

#### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	40	30	.571	—
Miami	37	33	.525	3
Charlotte	30	40	.429	10
Orlando	21	49	.300	19
Atlanta	10	50	.167	20

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	40	39	.500	½
Indiana	39	39	.500	10
Milwaukee	37	42	.455	13
Detroit	30	39	.435	10
Chicago	24	45	.348	16

### Western Conference

#### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Houston	40	31	.571	—
x-San Antonio	40	30	.571	½
New Orleans	39	30	.565	3½
Denver	30	39	.455	33½
Memphis	19	50	.275	36

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	43	26	.623	—
Oklahoma City	42	29	.592	2
Toronto	42	30	.571	3½
Utah	40	30	.565	3½
Denver	38	32	.543	5½

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Golden State	53	17	.757	—
LA Clippers	37	31	.514	15
Portland	31	41	.438	21
Sacramento	23	48	.324	30½
Phoenix	19	52	.268	34½

#### y-clinched division

#### Friday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	92	16	.852	—
Philadelphia	120	120	.500	—
Toronto	122	120	.500	—
Indiana	91	12	.833	—
Memphis	98	93	.500	—
Milwaukee	102	117	.468	—
Portland	101	117	.458	—
Los Angeles	114	111	.500	—
New Orleans	114	124	.488	—
Cleveland	109	101	.510	—
Denver	91	101	.468	—
Golden State	101	109	.477	—
Atlanta	107	106	.510	—
Phoenix	106	114	.468	—
Portland	106	114	.468	—
Los Angeles	106	114	.468	—
New Orleans	106	114	.468	—
Houston	106	114	.468	—
Minnesota	106	114	.468	—
Memphis	101	107	.488	—
Portland	101	107	.488	—
Los Angeles	101	107	.488	—
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## SOCCER/HIGH SCHOOL:DODEA PACIFIC

## Morocco's bid: \$16B needed for World Cup

BY ROB HARRIS  
Associated Press

Morocco would need to spend almost \$16 billion to prepare to host the 2026 World Cup, with every proposed stadium and training ground built from scratch or renovated, the bid said Saturday.

With less than three months to go until the FIFA vote, the north African nation presented the first significant details of its proposal to take on the joint bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The North American bid plans to rely on existing infrastructure, including large NFL stadiums already hosting events.

For the first time, a high-risk bid that does not meet FIFA's expectations on facilities and profit can be disqualified before the governing body's congress votes on June 13.

When FIFA officials score the bids, infrastructure — of which half relates to stadiums — will account for 70 percent of the panel's mark. The remaining 30 percent is based on projected costs and revenues.

For \$3 billion, Morocco said it can build nine stadiums, refurbish five others and build or renovate 130 training grounds. That is part of the \$12.6 billion in public investment that also requires hospital services being upgraded in 20 cities and transport networks improved for the World Cup after the jump from 32 to 48 participating nations.

The bid said another \$3.2 billion of private investment is required to build hotels containing around 30,000 rooms.

Morocco's bid team told The Associated Press the projections had been "carefully costed" but could not provide a breakdown on how the figures were reached.

Nine new stadiums are planned, including a 93,000-capacity home for the national team in Casablanca that would stage the opening game and final in 2026.

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## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

## Kubasaki splits baseball series

Stars and Stripes

Things went well for Kubasaki baseball, at least on Friday, the first day of a two-day road trip. That was before Saturday, when the Dragons ran into a familiar nemesis, four-time defending Far East Division I Tournament champion American School In Japan.

Kyle Powell just missed a no-hitter in the Dragons' 6-1 win over Kinrick, and Samuel Williamson and Camron McCall each had two RBIs in a 4-1 victory over Yokota on Friday at Yokota Park.

But at Mustang Valley the next morning, ASU quickly broke out of the gate in each game of a doubleheader, then held off late Dragons rallies to sweep the twin bills 7-5 and 5-2.

"They're definitely still the team to beat," Dragons coach Randy Toor said of the Mustangs' D-I chances. "They have good young players, some young arms, they're solid and they put the ball in play. They don't strike out much. They're very patient and selective with pitches."

Erosco didn't help the Dragons, who committed three in the opener and one in the nightcap.

"The first three or four innings, we really weren't there. We came out flat. You can't do that with a team like that," Toor said.

Things went much better for the Dragons on Friday, when Powell combined with Adam Garlick's 3-for-3 performance with two RBIs against Kinrick, and Jon Palmer got the win in relief to couple with Williamson's and McCall's run production in the win over Yokota.

**Kadena:** Panthers girls soccer remained unbeaten at 6-0, getting a 5-0 shutout over Naha Commercial High School on Saturday. Phoebe Bills led the attack with two goals, giving her five on the season, while Adrianna Gomez got her 11th goal plus two assists.

**Yokota:** Though the Panthers boys soccer team lost twice to Chadwick International, including 3-0 in Saturday's final, Yokota learned some things from the Matthew C. Perry Cup Tournament, coach Trent Anderson said. "This will really help us as we move forward."



JASMINE LITTON/Special to Stars and Stripes

**Daegu's Elijah Bembischew is tagged out by Humphreys catcher Owen Williams during Saturday's DODEA Korea season-opening double header at Camp Henry. The Warriors swept the games 12-2 and 5-4.**

**Zama:** Like father, like daughter. Freshman Meridean Duarte, daughter of Trojans girls soccer coach Manny Duarte, enjoyed a break-out game Saturday, scoring five times as Zama routed Seisen 7-1. The Trojans improved to 6-2 on the season.

**Edgren:** Eagles baseball appeared to be on the shelf three weeks ago, but coach Brett Lehrer says the team now has enough players to move ahead with a season. They played twice at Yokota on Saturday, losing 10-0 and 16-1. They next host Zama on Friday and Saturday.

**E.J. King:** Gabi Shultz scored once on Friday and twice on Saturday to help Cobras girls soccer to a weekend split of matches with M.C. Perry. King edged the Samurai 2-1 on Saturday, after losing 4-1 on Friday. Shultz has nine goals this season for the 3-5 Cobras.

**M.C. Perry:** Garrett Macias struck out eight in three innings, homered and drove in two runs as the Samurai routed King 21-2, salvaging a split of a two-game series at Sasebo Naval Base. The Cobras edged Perry 7-5 on Friday.

**Kinrick:** The three-time defending Far East D-I track champion Red Devils picked up where they left off last season. The boys and girls topped the team standings at Saturday's season-opening meet at Yokota. The boys beat American School In Japan 216 1/2-118 1/2 and the girls did likewise 214 1/2-114.

**Soul American:** Senior Alyse Neal remained in good position to top the northwest Pacific long jump record. On Saturday, she matched her best distance in last spring's Far East meet, jumping a meet-record 5.3 meters. The region record is 5.42 set in 2006 by Amelia Clark of Jakarta International.

**Humphreys:** Blackhawks track and field similarly soared to a school first — the boys and girls teams each topping the standings in a single meet on the same day. Humphreys boys downed Yongsan 175-117 and the girls edged Seoul American 177-147.

**Daegu:** Senior Neena Ibit proved nearly impenetrable in net for Warriors girls soccer over the weekend, stopping 30 of 32 shots in two matches. Daegu played Taejon Christian to a scoreless draw on Saturday, hours after falling 2-0 to Yongsan.

**Osan:** It was a struggle, but Cougars girls soccer remained unbeaten at 4-0, beating Taejon Christian and Yongsan on Saturday by identical 3-2 scores. Elizabeth White scored three for Osan, giving her seven on the season, and Jana Rafi added her fourth and fifth goals.



# NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS



K.C. ALFRED, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

**Running back Danny Woodhead announced his retirement on Saturday morning in an Instagram post. The 5-foot-8, 204-pound Woodhead had 2,238 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns, along with 300 catches for 2,698 yards and 17 scores over 10 seasons playing for the New York Jets, New England Patriots, San Diego Chargers and Baltimore Ravens.**

## Briefly

# Versatile RB Woodhead retiring

Associated Press

**NEW YORK —** Danny Woodhead went from undersized and undrafted to big-time playmaker in 10 NFL seasons.

The versatile running back announced his retirement from playing in a humble and heartfelt post on Instagram early Saturday.

"10 years!" Woodhead wrote. "Wow, God had crazy plans for a small little kid from North Platte, NE! It's been a wild ride and feel so blessed He allowed me to do what I loved for so long. But now it's time to say goodbye to the game I love."

The 5-foot-8, 204-pound Woodhead had 2,238 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns, along with 300 catches for 2,698 yards and 17 scores while playing for the New York Jets, New England, San Diego and Baltimore. He added an exciting element to the offenses in which he played, able to run the ball through seemingly the smallest of holes or take a short pass and turn it into a long gain.

The 33-year-old Woodhead is also a devout Christian who leaned on his faith during the ups and downs of what became a successful NFL career.

"All I had to do was follow His plans for my life," Woodhead wrote, "and His plans were crazy awesome!"

Woodhead was a two-time Harlon Hill Trophy winner at Chadron State in Nebraska as the top player in NCAA Division II. Despite his college success, he went undrafted in 2008 and signed with the Jets as a free agent.

Already a longshot to make the roster, Woodhead suffered a serious knee injury during a training camp practice and spent his entire rookie season on injured reserve. He recovered in time for camp the next summer and became a fan favorite as one of the Jets' featured players on HBO's "Hard Knocks." Woodhead made his NFL regular-season debut midway through the 2009 season.

## Seattle signs WR Brown, S Alexander

**RENTON, Wash. —** The Seattle Seahawks added depth at both wide receiver and in the secondary by signing wide receiver Jaron Brown and safety Maurice Alexander.

Seattle announced both of the signings on Saturday. Brown spent all five of his NFL seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, while Alexander is joining the Seahawks after parts of four seasons with the Rams.

## Dallas releases 10-year vet Scandrick

**FRISCO, Texas —** The Dallas Cowboys have released 10-year veteran cornerback Orlando Scandrick, another move toward getting younger in the secondary.

Scandrick had asked for a release that the Cowboys made official with Saturday's move. The post-June 1 designation gives Dallas \$3 million in salary cap space this season with a \$1.6 million cap charge in 2019.

The 31-year-old was a fifth-round pick by the Cowboys in 2008 and had eight interceptions in 125 games.

## Pats add Clayborn, Hill in free agency

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass. —** The New England Patriots bolstered their pass rush and backfield depth with the free agent signings of defensive end Adrian Clayborn and running back Jeremy Hill on Saturday.

The Patriots also announced the signing of veteran offensive tackle Matt Tobin.

The addition of Tobin adds depth to a Patriots offensive line that lost long-time starting left tackle Nate Solder to the New York Giants in free agency.

## Sports briefs

# Nickal's pin clinches title for Penn State

Associated Press

**CLEVELAND —** Bo Nickal reversed an early attack from Ohio State's Myles Martin and spun him on his back for a first-period pin that clinched Penn State's seventh team title in eight years at the NCAA Wrestling Championships on Saturday.

Nickal won his second-straight title at 184 pounds and joined Zain Retherford (149 pounds), Jason Nolf (157), Vincenzo Joseph (165) as repeat champions for the Nittany Lions, who pulled away to beat the Buckeyes 141-5-13.3.

Iowa finished third with 97 points while Michigan and NC State tied for fourth with 80 points. Missouri was sixth with 61.5.

## Logano cruises to Xfinity win at Fontana

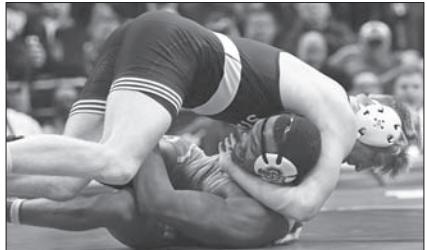
**FONTANA, Calif. —** Joey Logano cruised to his first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the season on Saturday, outpacing Justin Allgaier at Fontana.

Logano pushed his Team Penske Ford to his 29th career Xfinity victory and his third at Auto Club Speedway. The dominant win also was the first Xfinity victory at Auto Club Speedway for the team backed by Roger Penske, who spearheaded the construction of this 21-year-old track east of Los Angeles.

"That car was so good," Logano said. "It was one of those races where you're relieved when you win. You're supposed to win when you've got a car that fast."

A series of cautions led to a choppy race governed by tire quality and restarts, but Logano was in command of almost every big moment.

Logano took the lead on the fifth lap and won the first two stages, never even relinquishing his lead until late, when he fell behind Elliott Sadler out of a restart. Logano moved up from 16th and reclaimed the lead in a mere three-lap stretch, and he jumped in front again with a beautiful reentry after the final caution with eight laps to go.



DAVID DERMER/AP

**Penn State's Bo Nickal, top, controls Ohio State's Myles Martin during the 184-pound championship match of the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships on Saturday in Cleveland.**

## Stenson takes 1-shot lead; Woods 5 back

**ORLANDO, Fla. —** Henrik Stenson did just enough right for a 1-under 71 to take the lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Stenson mixed birdies and bogeys on a warm afternoon and goes into the final round with a one-shot lead for the second time in four years at Bay Hill, where he has now won.

Tiger Woods goes into Sunday with another shot at winning. He made another bold play on the par-5 16th to set up a birdie, made a 12-foot birdie on the 18th and shot 69. He was five back.

## Ramirez beats Imam to win 140-pound title

**NEW YORK —** Jose Ramirez won his first world title Saturday night with a unanimous decision victory over Amir Imam to win the WBC's vacant 140-pound belt.

Ramirez pulled away in the late rounds, swelling Imam's right eye in the process to take the title.

Ramirez, 22, a U.S. Olympian, won by scores of 120-108, 117-111 and 115-113. He improved to 22-0 with 16 knockouts.

## Athletics pitcher Cotton to miss 2018 season

**MESA, Ariz. —** Oakland Athletics pitcher Jharel Cotton will undergo season-ending surgery on his right elbow.

Cotton is expected to undergo Tommy John surgery next week.

The 26-year-old Cotton was expected to be in Oakland's starting rotation this season after going 9-10 with a 5.58 ERA average in 24 starts as a rookie in 2017.

Also:

- New York Mets left-hander Jason Vargas is expected to miss four to six weeks after fracturing a bone in his right hand.

The Mets acquired Vargas in free agency, signing him to a two-year, \$16 million contract. He went 18-11 with a 4.16 ERA for Kansas City last season.

## WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP



TONY AVELAR/AP

**Florida Gulf Coast guard China Dow reacts after being fouled against Missouri during the second half of a first-round game in Stanford, Calif., on Saturday. Dow scored 21 points in the upset victory.**

### Scoreboard

<b>Albany Regional</b>	
First Round	
At Columbia, S.C.	
Virginia 68, Columbia 62	
South Carolina 66, Columbia 52	
Saturday, March 17	
At Storrs, Conn.	
UConn 140, Florida 52	
Quinnipiac 86, Miami 72	
At Athens, Ga.	
Duke 72, Bellarmine 66	
Georgia 68, Mercer 63	
At Tallahassee, Fla.	
Florida State 66, Little Rock 49	
Buffalo 102, South Florida 79	
Second Round	
Stetson 66, Columbia 58	
At Columbia, S.C.	
Virginia (19-13) vs. South Carolina (27-6)	
Monday, March 19	
At Florida 58, Virginia 52	
UConn (33-0) vs. Quinnipiac (28-5)	
At Athens, Ga.	
Duke (23-8) vs. Mercer (26-6)	
At Tallahassee, Fla.	
Buffalo (28-5) vs. Florida State (26-6)	

### Spokane Regional

First Round	
Friday, March 16	
At Notre Dame, Ind.	
Notre Dame 99, Cal State Northridge 81	
Villanova 81, South Dakota State 74	

### At College Station, Texas

DePaul 90, Oklahoma 79	
Texas A&M 80, Florida 73	
At Eugene, Ore.	
Minnesota 89, Green Bay 77	
Oregon 88, Florida 74	

### Saturday, March 17

At Columbus, Ohio	
Central Michigan 78, Ohio State 63	
Ohio State 87, George Washington 45	
Second Round	
Sunday, March 18	
At Notre Dame, Ind.	
Notre Dame (30-3) vs. Villanova (23-8)	
At College Station, Texas	
DePaul (27-7) vs. Texas A&M (25-9)	
At Eugene, Ore.	
Minnesota (24-10) vs. Florida (31-4)	
Monday, March 19	
At Columbus, Ohio	
Central Michigan (29-4) vs. Ohio State (28-6)	

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# UConn rolls to records; six high seeds advance

Associated Press

It was a record day for the UConn Huskies and a banner opening round for double-digit winners.

The top-seeded Huskies rolled to a half dozen new records in the 140-52 win over Saint Francis (Pa.) that got the second day of the opening round started. UConn set a record for points in a tournament game and all-time NCAA records for points in a period (55 in the first) and a half (94 in the first). And UConn's 88-point margin of victory was the second-biggest in tournament history. Baylor beat Texas Southern by 89 in the 2017 tournament.

While the NEC representative fell, six double-digit seeds advanced to the second round for the first time since 2000. Only one of those teams that year made it to the Sweet 16.

### Albany Regional

**No. 1 UConn 140, No. 16 Saint Francis (Pa.) 52:** At Storrs, Conn., Azura Stevens scored 26 points to lead six Huskies in double figures.

**No. 3 Florida State 91, No. 14 Little Rock 49:** Shakaya Thomas scored 26 points for host Florida State.

The Seminoles (26-6), who were 35-60 from the field, put the game out of reach by going on a 23-0 run during an 8-minute span in the second and third quarters.

**No. 4 Georgia 68, No. 13 Mercer 63:** Caliyah Robinson had 23 points and 16 rebounds, Mackenzie Engram added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and host Geppi held off Mercer (30-3).

Kahlia Lawrence scored 23 points and Keke Calloway had 15 for No. 13 seed Mercer (30-3).

**No. 5 Duke 72, No. 12 Belmont 55:** At Athens, Ga., Leondra Odorn scored a career-high 25 points, including nine in Duke's dominant third period, and the Blue Devils beat Belmont.

Duke (23-8) led only 32-31 at halftime before outscoring Belmont 21-9 in the third period.

Kyle Smith scored 20 points to lead Belmont (31-4), which saw its 22-game winning streak end.

**No. 11 Buffalo 102, No. 6 South Florida 79:** Cierra Dillard scored a career-high 36 points and Buffalo got its first NCAA Tournament victory, and it is the first time that a Mid-American Conference team scored more than 100 points in an NCAA Tournament game.

Buffalo (28-5) was 14-for-27 from the three-point line, including 7-for-13 from Dillard.

**No. 9 Quinnipiac, No. 8 Miami 72:** At Storrs, Conn., Jen Fay led a balanced offense with 19 points and the Bobcats eliminated the Hurricanes for a second consecutive

tie season.

Paula Strautmane added 15 points and Edel Thornton and Carly Fabbri each had 14 for Quinnipiac (28-5), which extended its winning streak to 23 games, a new school record.

### Spokane Regional

**No. 3 Ohio State 87, No. 14 George Washington 45:** Stephania Mavunga scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the host Buckeyes rolled.

Alexa Hart had 12 points and Kasey Mitchell added 11 points and seven rebounds as Ohio State (28-6) never trailed.

**No. 11 Central Michigan 78, No. 6 LSU 69:** Tinara Moore scored 25 points to help Central Michigan get its first women's NCAA Tournament win, beating LSU (28-6).

The Chippewas, who had lost in their first three trips to the NCAAs, got in the tournament for the first time in five years by upsetting Buffalo in the Mid-American Conference Tournament.

Moore and Central Michigan dominated inside, outrebounding the Southeastern Conference team 40-27 and creating more second chances. Reyna Frost had 12 points and 12 boards for the Chippewas before fouling out late in the game.

### Kansas City Regional

**No. 1 Mississippi State 95, No. 16 Nicholls 50:** Victoria Vivians scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead host Mississippi State past Nicholls.

The Bulldogs (23-1) started the game slowly, but scored 33 points in the second quarter to take a 54-24 lead into halftime and eventually cruise to the win.

**No. 5 Duke 83, No. 15 Maine 54:** Jatarie White scored 17 points and the host Longhorns used an overwhelming first half to romp to a win over Maine.

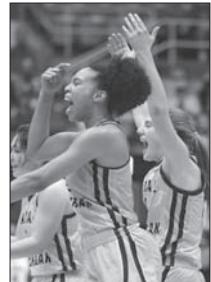
Hosting the first two rounds for the third consecutive year, Texas smothered the America East Conference tournament champions from the opening tip. Texas (27-6) led 45-18 by halftime with a combination of dominant rebounding and speed in transition led by guards Lashann Higgs and Brooke McCarty. Higgs scored 15 and Aerial Atkins scored 16.

**No. 3 UCLA 71, No. 14 Arkansas 60:** At Los Angeles, Monique Billings scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds. Kennedy Burke added 15 points to lead the Bruins (25-7).

**No. 11 Creighton 76, No. 6 Iowa 70:** At Los Angeles, Jaylyn Awogbe scored 24 points and Sydney Lamberty added 20 to lead the Bluejays (19-12) to an upset.

Awogbe and Lamberty combined to make 16 of 26 shots.

**No. 7 Arizona 73, No. 10 Nebraska 62:** At Austin, Central Michigan (29-4) vs. Ohio State (28-6)



TONY DEJAK/AP

**Central Michigan's Tinara Moore, left, and Kyra Bussell celebrate after beating LSU in a first-round game on Saturday**

Texas, Robbie Ryan scored 16 points and Kianna Ibis added 14 to lead the Sun Devils.

Arizona State moves on to the second round for the fifth straight season with a chance to make the Sweet 16 for the second time in four years.

**No. 9 Oklahoma State 64, No. 8 Syracuse 57:** At Starkville, Miss., freshman Jaden Hobbs scored a career-high 27 points, Loryn Goodwin and Kaylee Jensen added 19 for the Cowgirls.

The 5-foot-8 Hobbs made eight of nine three-point attempts, plowing the game open single-handedly by making four threes in quick succession late in the third quarter.

### Lexington Regional

**No. 4 Stanford 82, No. 13 Gonzaga 68:** Alanna Smith scored 20 points, freshman Kiana Williams made a sensational NCAA Tournament debut, and the host Cardinal beat cold-shooting Gonzaga.

Stanford (23-10) used a 9-0 run in the third to pull away and overcame a tough shooting performance by Brittany McPhee, who had 11 points on 4-for-12 shooting.

**No. 12 Florida Gulf Coast 80, No. 5 Missouri 70:** At Stanton, Calif., China Dow scored 21 points and played stingy defense in the paint against Missouri star Sophie Cunningham, and Florida Gulf Coast pulled off an upset.

Cunningham took over on the low block to get Missouri (24-8) going and scored a season-high 35 points — most by a Tigers player in an NCAA tournament game — and made 14 of 16 free throws. But she didn't get much help.

Dow made two free throw attempts with 1:12 left as the Eagles kept pushing until the final buzzer to run their winning streak to 11 games with a 21st victory in the last 22 games.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## West Regional roundup

## Poole's late three sinks Houston

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The unflappable freshman with swag to spare let loose a long three-pointer just as the buzzer sounded, watched it splash through the net and took off on a dead sprint around the arena.

"I saw everybody celebrating," Michigan's Jordan Poole said later. "And I always thought if I hit a shot like that, I didn't want to get tackled. So I tried to avoid everybody."

He finally gave up, allowing the sweetest of parties to truly begin.

Poole's buzzer-beater, which came after Houston squandered a chance to lock up a spot in the Midwest Region semifinals, lifted the third-seeded Wolverines to a 64-63 victory Saturday — and left longtime coach John Beilein struggling to find the right words.

Dramatic? That's a good place to start.

"I'm just trying to appreciate the moment of what just happened," Beilein said. "When he makes that shot, I'm making sure the shot got off. I'm managing my team. I can't even look at the celebration."

"We did not play well, and credit Houston for that," he said. "Somebody you feel, well, geez, why did we win? But I've been on the other end of those many, many times. We got a fortunate break."

That came when Devin Davis had a chance to seal the win, and the Cougars' gritty forward missed a pair of foul shots with 3.6 seconds left. The Wolverines



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

**Michigan guard Jordan Poole (2) is chased by forward Moritz Wagner (13) after making a three-point basket at the buzzer Saturday to beat Houston 64-63 in the second round in Wichita, Kan.**

(30-7) called their final play, and Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman found Poole on the wing.

The youngster's shot hit nothing but net.

"Sports is a great metaphor for life sometimes. It's not always fair," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said. "I thought our team deserved to win that game. For 39 minutes, 57 seconds, I thought we were the better team. Credit their kid for hitting a big

shot. It was a big, big shot he hit."

Abdur-Rahkman and Moe Wagner scored 12 points apiece to lead Michigan.

Rob Gray scored 23 points and Davis finished with 17 for the sixth-seeded Cougars (27-8), who were trying to reach their first Sweet 16 since the last of the Phi Slama Jama teams in 1984.

**No. 4 Gonzaga No. 5 Ohio St. 84:** At Boise, Idaho, Zach Norvell Jr. had 28 points, Ruei

Hachimura added 25 and Gonzalez is headed back to the Sweet 16.

Norvell hit the late tiebreaking three-pointer against UNC-Greensboro in the opening round to help the Zags advance. The confident freshman made six of 11 from the arc against Ohio State to lead Gonzaga (32-4) to the Sweet 16 for the fourth straight season.

Keita Bates-Diop had 28 points and Kam Williams 19 for Ohio State.

## Kentucky routs Buffalo, halts Midwest's string of upsets

By EDDIE PELLS

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Kentucky put an end to any upset talk on its watch Saturday, getting 27 points and a near-perfect shooting game from Shai Gilgeous-Alexander in a 95-75 pulverization from 13th-seeded Buffalo.

Gilgeous-Alexander went 10-for-12 and made both of his three-point attempts to send fifth-seeded Kentucky (26-10) to the Sweet 16

for the second straight season.

Coming into the day, the tournament was still reverberating from Maryland-Baltimore County's 16 vs. 1 stunner over Virginia, Villanova and Duke both rolled early; the evening slate started with Kentucky, and the Wildcats, with their all-freshman starting lineup, trailed only once: 2-0.

It wasn't a runaway until the last 7 minutes.

Buffalo (27-9), which got here with a 21-

point blowout over Arizona, twice trimmed a double-digit lead to five midway through the second half.

Gilgeous-Alexander answered both times — once with a three-pointer to extend the lead to eight, then again a few minutes later with a three-point play that started a 12-2 run and put the game away.

Hamidou Diallo also went off — going 9-for-12 and scoring all but four of his 22 points in the second half for the Wildcats.

## Again: Sister Jean's prayers answered again for Loyola-Chicago

## FROM BACK PAGE

After Loyola almost lost the ball on an out-of-bounds call confirmed on replay, Custer took the inbounds pass with 10 seconds left, dribbled left and then right, pulled up and let go of the winner.

The Vols' Jordan Bone got a decent look at last-gasp three, but it bounced away, and Custer threw the ball off the scoreboard high above the court as he was mobbed by teammates in the same spot that the Ramblers celebrated Ingram's dramatic winner.

"I've seen him make one, two dribble, one-two pull-up probably a million times," said Ben Richardson, who won two high school championships with Custer in Kansas and has been his teammate since third grade. "He makes it like a 98 percent

## clip."

The Ramblers fell behind 15-6 in less than 5 minutes before the Volunteers missed their next nine shots and fell behind for the first time on Custer's three-pointer with 6 minutes left in the first half.

Admiral Schofield scored 11 of those first 15 Tennessee points but didn't score again until a nearly 32 minutes later that started a rally from a 10-point deficit in the final 4 minutes by the SEC regular-season co-champions.

Tennessee coach Rick Barnes lost at American Airlines Center, home of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, for the first time in six NCAA games. The first four wins were during his 17 seasons leading the Texas Longhorns.

"It's always a tough way to lose a basketball game, buzzer-beaters," Barnes said.

"Had the ball with a chance to tie or go ahead and we did it. They had the ball with a chance to win, and they did it."

Schmidt, a high school basketball player in San Francisco in the 1930s who leads the pregame prayer and gives the players feedback after, wasn't the only one pulling hard for Loyola.

Late-arriving fans waiting for crowd-voiced Texas Tech in the late game joined the raucous Ramblers supporters wearing maroon-and-gold scarfs and standing almost the entire game in sections across the court from their team's bench.

"It's great to get some exposure for our school and our fans," Richardson said. "And on the national stage, we know there's so many loyal fans that have come up to us, that have been fans since '63, the national championship team, and they're so proud

of us."

Aundre Jackson, who grew up in the Dallas area, led Loyola with 16 points, and Custer had 10. Schofield scored 14 for Tennessee.

**Big picture: Loyola-Chicago:** A special run continues and the Ramblers might not be one-year wonders. Several key players will be back, including Custer, fellow junior guard Marques Townes and freshman center Cameron Krutwig. The Ramblers probably won't have to wait another 33 years this time.

**Tennessee:** Letting a quick lead get away will hurt for the Vols, although the rally is a boost for a starting lineup with no seniors. It was the first NCAA trip in three seasons at Tennessee for Barnes, who took the Longhorns 16 times in 17 years.

## Scoreboard

## EAST REGIONAL

## Second Round

**Saturday, March 17**  
Atlanta, Georgia

Villanova 81, Alabama 58  
At Dallas

Texas Tech 69, Florida 56  
Sunday, March 18  
At Detroit

Purdue 29-28 vs. UConn 21-13  
At San Diego

Marshall (25-10) vs. Virginia (25-10)  
At Boston

**Regional Semifinals**  
Saturday, March 17

Villanova (34-4) vs. Marshall-West Virginia-Murray State winner  
Purdue-Butler winner vs. Texas Tech (26-9)

## Regional Championship

## Sunday, March 25

**Semifinal winners**  
SOUTH REGIONAL

Georgia 75, Louisville 73  
Saturday, March 17  
At Boise, Idaho

Kentucky 95, Tennessee 75  
At Dallas

Loyola of Chicago vs. Tennessee 62  
Sunday, March 18  
At Charlotte, N.C.

UMBC (25-10) vs. Ohio State (23-11)  
At Nashville, Tenn.

Cincinnati (31-4) vs. Nevada (28-7)  
Regional Semifinals

**Thursday, March 22**

UMBC-Kansas State winner vs. Kentucky (26-10)

Cincinnati-McGraw winner vs. Loyola of Chicago (26-5)

## Regional Championship

## Saturday, March 24

**Semifinal winners**  
MIDWEST REGIONAL

Second Round

**Saturday, March 17**  
At Pittsburgh

Duke 87, Rhode Island 73  
At Wichita, Kan.

Kansas 83, Seton Hall 79  
Sunday, March 18  
At Detroit

Michigan 30 (34-4) vs. Syracuse (22-13)

## At Viejas Arena

## San Diego

Arkansas (26-7) vs. Connecticut 24-13  
At CenturyLink Center Omaha

Nebraska, Neb.  
**Regional Semifinals**

**Friday, March 23**

Kansas 90, Ohio State 84  
At Wichita, Kan.

Michigan 75, Seton Hall 56  
Sunday, March 18  
At Charlotte, N.C.

North Carolina 75, Texas A&M (21-12)

## At Bridgestone Arena

## Nashville, Tenn.

Xavier (29-5) vs. Florida State (21-11)  
At Bridgestone Center

Los Angeles, Calif.  
**Regional Semifinals**

**Thursday, March 22**

Xavier-Florida State winner vs. Gonzaga (32-4)

Texas-Texas Tech A&M winner vs. Michigan (30-7)

## Regional Championship

## Saturday, March 24

**Semifinal winners**  
FINAL FOUR

At Alamodome

San Antonio, Texas

**National Semifinals**

**Saturday, March 31**

South champion vs. West champion

East champion vs. Midwest champion

**Final Four**

Monday, April 2

**Semifinal winners**

# NCAA TOURNAMENT



GENE K. PUSKAR/AP

Rhode Island's E.C. Matthews hugs coach Dan Hurley after Saturday's 87-62 loss to Duke.

## Blue Devils romp in win over Rams

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The same message comes from Mike Krzyzewski almost daily. While the Hall-of-Fame Duke coach makes an effort to mix it up when talking to his ridiculously young and ridiculously loaded team, the theme never changes.

This moment in the NCAA Tournament is precious. Don't take it for granted. Especially if it turns out to be the only one you'll get.

Marvin Bagley III and the rest of his potentially one-and-done teammates appear to be all ears. The Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year poured in 22 points to go with nine rebounds and the second-seeded Blue Devils overwhelmed seventh-seeded Rhode Island 87-62 on Saturday to earn the program's 26th trip to the Sweet 16.

"After seeing these last couple games, these last few days of basketball, seeing what can happen, we have an idea that this tournament anything can happen," Bagley said. "We can't look ahead. We've got to worry about now."

And the rest of the field might need to start worrying about the Blue Devils (28-7), who will play either Michigan State or Syracuse in the Midwest Regional semifinal in Omaha, Nebraska next Friday. Duke shot 57 percent (29 of 51) from the floor, finished with 20 assists and never let the Rams (26-8) in it following a 23-5 burst midway through the first half.

E.C. Matthews' Rhode Island with 21 points but the Rams looked confounded at times by Duke's much improved zone defense. A weakness during a mini-swoon in late January, the Blue Devils are no longer treating defense like a chore they're forced to complete before getting the ball back in their hands.

"They played and looked like an NBA team out there," Rhode Island coach Danny Hurley said.

Pretty much. Of course, the coach is pretty good too. The victory was the 1,099th of Krzyzewski's career, breaking a tie with late Tennessee women's coach Pat Summitt for the most wins in NCAA history.

# Villanova rolls past Tide

Bridges' big second half lifts top-seeded Wildcats

BY DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jay Wright had some late-night restlessness because he could not turn off the TV as long as Virginia and UMBC were still playing. He met his Villanova team in the morning and the players at the breakfast tables were buzzing over basketball's biggest upset.

The reverberation from the 16-over-1 stunner was felt by another tourney top seed.

"There was a lot of attention with that," guard Donte DiVincenzo said. "We're a 1 seed so it was more attention for us."

In the March spotlight, Villanova showed how a No. 1 seed takes care of business.

Mikal Bridges hit five threes, scored 23 points and helped Villanova put the field on notice that it's the team to beat with an 81-58 win over ninth-seeded Alabama on Saturday.

The Wildcats (32-4) are in the Sweet 16 for the first time since they won the 2016 national championship. Bridges, Jalen Brunson, Phil Booth — and yes, The Big Ragu — look every bit the favorite to make it two in three years.

Villanova plays Friday in Boston against the Marshall-West Virginia winner.

"My good vibes are coming from how this team's playing, how unselfishly they play," Wright said.

The sport is still buzzing from



Villanova's Mikal Bridges, right, blocks a shot by Alabama's Galin Smith during the second half of Saturday's second-round game in Pittsburgh. Bridges scored 23 points in the Wildcats' 81-58 win.

KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

top-seeded Virginia's 20-point loss to 16th-seeded UMBC on Friday night.

Alabama (20-16) failed to make it two No. 1s KO'd in less than 24 hours.

After a tense first half in a that has given the program fits, the Wildcats hit their first six threes in the second and put on a thrashing up there among the most dominant under Wright.

Bridges, who averaged 17.9 points and played his way into a likely NBA draft lottery pick, scored 1 point and missed all five shots in the first half. He found his groove once the second half tipped. Bridges scored the first

5 points of the half and then finished a thunderous alley-oop on a pass from Booth that made it 41-27 and sent the Wildcats wildly waving their arms in celebration headed into a timeout.

DiVincenzo — the retheaded guard nicknamed "The Big Ragu" — scored all 18 of his points in the half. Villanova attempted 20 threes (made seven) out of 27 shots.

"We just had to withstand that first initial hit, and then once we got comfortable out there with each other, we started defending at a higher rate," DiVincenzo said. "I just think we wore down their men."

## Jayhawks hold off Seton Hall

BY DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Udoka Azubuike had practiced once in the last 11 days because of a lingering knee injury, and the mammoth Kansas forward's three-minute stretch in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament was about as overwhelming as his herky-jerky free-throw stroke.

He managed to go 22 minutes against Seton Hall on Saturday night.

Azubuike stood toe-to-toe with the Pirates' bruising Angel Delgado, and drew enough attention on offense to spring his high-scoring guards for open looks. The result was 28-points from teammate Malik Newman, another 16 from Svi Mykhailiuk, and a gritty 83-79 victory that pushed the top-seeded Jayhawks to their third straight Sweet 16.

If "Duke wasn't able to come back from his injury, we don't win," coach Bill Self said.

Lagerald Vick added 13 points for Kansas (29-7), which converted every crucial play down the stretch to advance to the semifinals of the Midwest Region.

Delgado finished with 24 points and 23 rebounds in a virtuous effort for the No. 8 seed Pirates (22-11), who snapped a four-game NCAA Tournament skid in the opening round. But he was less effective when Azubuike was in the game, a matchup that often sounded like battleships colliding.

"It stinks, basically, to leave like this," Delgado said. "Because we had so much expectation. We wanted to win every game, be the best team in the tournament."



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas center Udoka Azubuike dunks against Seton Hall during Saturday's second-round game in Wichita, Kan. The Jayhawks won 83-79.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Texas Tech guard Keenan Evans celebrates during Saturday's 69-66 win over Florida in Dallas.

## Texas Tech tops Florida to advance

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

DALLAS — Keenan Evans treats every game like senior night and is doing all he can to keep playing for Texas Tech.

Next stop: Sweet 16.

"Once you get to this point, it's just like, man, I'm not ready for it to end," Evans said. "And here we are getting another week to prepare and play the game we love."

Evans scored 22 points, making the tiebreaking three-pointer with 2½ minutes before his alley-oop pass on the punctuating dunk, as third-seeded Texas Tech beat Florida 69-66 on Saturday night in the NCAA Tournament.

The Red Raiders, in their second year with head coach Chris Beard, are going into the second weekend of the tournament for the first time since 2005.

"It's amazing. I feel like words can't really describe this journey with these guys," Evans said. "Coach Beard came in and said he was going to win. And after last season, it was a disappointment, he told us we were going to get to this tournament next year. We were going to make a run. And he kept his word."

While the next loss will end All-Big 12 guard Evans' career, high-flying freshman Zhaire Smith is just getting started.

Smith had 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, and was on the receiving end of an alley-oop pass with 29 seconds left that punched the ticket for the Red Raiders (26-9) to go to Boston to play Purdie or Butler next Friday night in the East Region.

"He has no ceiling," Evans said of Smith.

Chris Chiozza did the length of the court for a Florida layup with 25 seconds left before Evans lost the ball when trying to fight through a double-team after the inbound pass.

The Gators gathered the ball after a wild scramble. Egor Koulechov and KeVaughn Allen both had three-point attempts in the final 10 seconds that came up short.

Florida (21-13) fell short of the Elite 8 — and the Elite Eight — for the first time in their last six NCAA Tournament appearances.

# SPORTS



## Record-setting Huskies

UConn women set mark for points » **NCAA Tournament, Page 29**



ASHLEY LANDIS, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

The Loyola Ramblers celebrate a 63-62 win against Tennessee in the second round of the NCAA Tournament with team chaplain Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt on Saturday in Dallas. Right: Clayton Custer hits the winning three-pointer with 3.6 seconds left.

# Ramblers do it again

Another buzzer-beater sends No. 11 seed Loyola-Chicago to Sweet 16

BY SCHUYLER DIXON  
Associated Press

DALLAS — Loyola-Chicago's Sweet 16 dreams bounced on the front of the rim, lightly touched the backboard, and rattled a couple times before slipping through the net.

Another prayer answered in the waning seconds, and now Sister Jean's Ramblers are heading to Atlanta.

Clayton Custer's jumper got that friendly bounce with 3.6 seconds left, and 11th-seed Loyola beat Tennessee 63-62 in a South Regional second-round game Satur-

day night.

Custer's winner came two days after Duke Ingram's buzzer-beating three from the March Madness logo against Miami, surely to the delight of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the team chaplain and occasional coach, watching from her wheelchair on a platform near the main TV cameras.

"The only thing I can say, glory to God for that one," Custer said. "The ball bounced on the rim and I got a good bounce."

The Ramblers were the long-shot story of the first round — until 16th-seed UMBC beat No. 1 Virginia to pull off the biggest upset in NCAA Tournament history. That'll

be hard for the Ramblers (30-5) to top, but they're working on it.

The Missouri Valley champions broke the school record for wins set by the 1963 NCAA championship team. The small Catholic college in the heart of Chicago will play the Cincinnati-Nevada winner in the regional semifinals Thursday in Atlanta.

"Of course," Schmidt said when asked if she'll be with the team.

No. 3 seed Tennessee (26-7) took its only lead of the second half on a three-point play by Grant Williams with 20 seconds left.

**SEE AGAIN ON PAGE 30**



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Freshman Poole's last-second three lifts Michigan over Houston » **Page 30**

No. 1 Villanova, No. 2 Duke cruise into third round » **Page 31**



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